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TENNIS 46
Swedes preparing Davis Cup ambush for Sampras

THE TIMES

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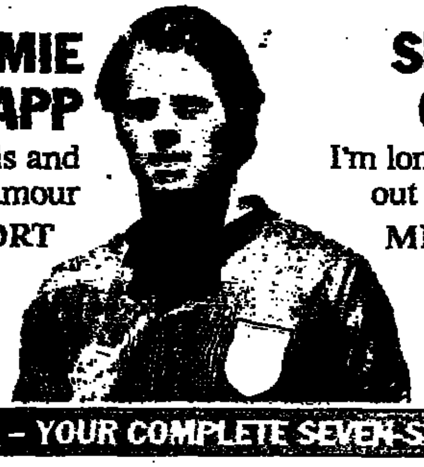
AVE THE
ORIES?
EEKEND

JAMIE 'REDKNAPP
The goals and the glamour
SPORT



SHERYL CROW
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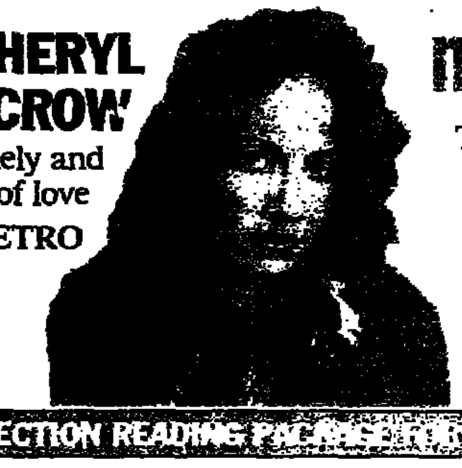

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Spencer plans to surround Diana's island grave with ring of steel

By Daniel McGrory

Princess: heart motifs on fence

A SEVEN-FOOT high steel cordon is to be erected around the island where Diana, Princess of Wales, is buried before her ancestral home is opened to the public in the summer.

Her brother, Earl Spencer, has asked his local authority for permission to build the steel and cast-iron fence decorated with thousands of heart-shaped motifs around the oval lake at Althorp.

This application is seen as the start of Lord Spencer's elaborate plans for his Northamptonshire estate to become one of Britain's biggest attractions. It opens on July 1 for eight weeks only.

Local council officials, who expect to override some protests about the plans from Lord Spencer's neighbours, predict that he will have to deal with "up to 3,000 visitors a day" in the 16th-century gardens. Estate staff believe the numbers will be far greater than that. "This is all so unique we simply don't know what to expect," one said.

What is certain is that Althorp, which the earl describes as a drain on his resources, can expect more visitors in a week than the 9,000 it usually welcomes in a year.

Lord Spencer has yet to decide how much to charge visitors. By the July opening it is hoped to have completed "an appropriate memorial" to the Princess and a museum — featuring family photographs, memorabilia and cine film — will be built in a stable block in the grounds.

A spokesman for the earl said "He has always said he does not want to make a profit from his sister's death but clearly there will have to be a cost to cover what will be extra staffing and arrangements for those wishing to visit."

The barrier, painted blue, will stand 15 to 20 feet from the water's edge, with one main entrance gate to limit the numbers allowed in to see the island. The exact location of the grave has never been disclosed but Lord Spencer has said that it cannot be seen from the edge of the lake.

Security measures will be also improved to include remote-controlled gates at the front and rear entrances, although staff say that there have been no breaches since the Princess was buried there in September.

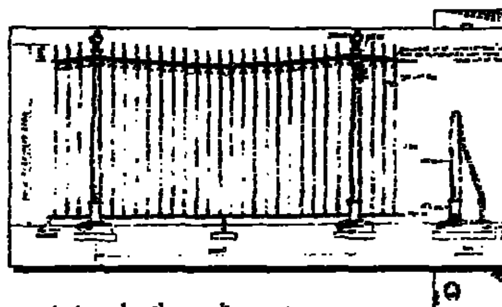
The earl's planning application to Daventry District Council comes as he continues to fight his wife in the Cape Town High Court over their divorce settlement. That hearing will resume on Monday unless rival lawyers manage to agree an out-of-court financial settlement over the weekend.

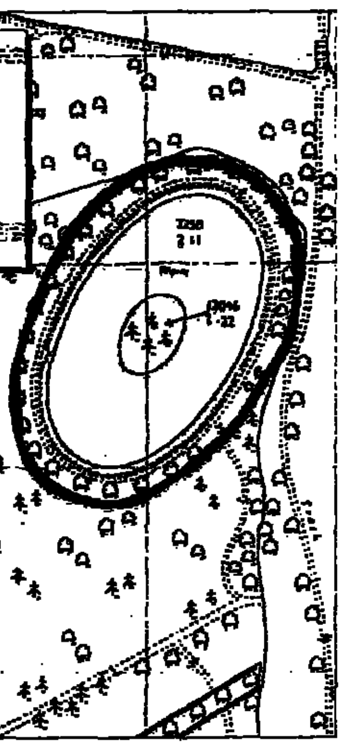
Yesterday, Countess Spencer hit back at claims from a friend of her husband that she had launched a "malicious" campaign against her husband in the hope of financial gain.

She said the statement delivered on the court steps by the earl's estate manager, David Horton-Fawkes, was "in material respects quite untrue".

In a statement issued by her London solicitors Lady Spencer said that her husband had chosen to sue her in South Africa for divorce and custody of their four small children, without warning, when they had been involved in negotiations through their English solicitors for many months, with a clear view to a divorce in England.

Describing herself as a "private person" she insists on keeping "my silence in relation to our marriage" until the court hears her evidence.





Spencer divorce, page 16-18
Weekend, page 2

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rage for two yea

Hunting foxes to be illegal by 2000

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

THE end of foxhunting in Britain by 2000 was predicted by ministers, MPs and campaigners last night after the Commons gave a 260-vote majority to a backbench attempt to outlaw hunting with dogs.

After the most passionate debate at Westminster since the general election in May, Michael Foster's Bill was carried on second reading by 411 votes to 151, one of the biggest ever votes in support of a private member's measure.

Within minutes of the result, Labour MPs received a message from Tony Blair that the leading campaigners interpreted as the death-knell for hunting. The Prime Minister, who was visiting British troops in Bosnia, told Conservative MPs not to frustrate the passage of a Bill for which there was clear support in the country and the Commons.

Then, in a remark that MPs took as confirmation that if necessary the Government would eventually ensure that a ban was implemented before the next election, Mr Blair added: "We are keeping this matter open to review for the future."

Despite the huge majority, Mr Foster's Bill is not expected to become [illegible] The Government has decided against giving it the extra parliamentary time it would need to get through both Houses, fearing that its already crowded timetable would be disrupted. But Mr Blair's statement was seen as a clear hint of government involvement in future. A senior government source said: "Hunting will be banned by the millennium."

The Bill now goes into its committee stage in the Commons. It is likely to emerge from that, but almost certainly will be killed off when it returns to the floor of the House for its report stage.

However, the strength of support for the Bill means that that reprieve will be only temporary. Although ten Cabinet ministers including Mr Blair were away from the Commons and did not vote, only two Labour MPs — Kate Hoey and Llin Golding — opposed the Bill. Whips and business managers accept that there is an unstoppable momentum within the Labour Party for a change in the law that will have to be met.

Whether that is done by allowing an amendment to a future government Bill or by backing another Private Member's Bill in the next session has yet to be decided.

In the meantime, the Government's strategy, which came during the speech of George Howarth, the Home Office minister, and in the responses of Mr Blair and other ministers afterwards, is to pin the blame on the Tories for the expected failure of Mr Foster's Bill.

For that reason there will be no on-the-record statements that the Government will push a Bill through in future; ministers believe that to do so would reduce the political gain they want to secure from claiming that the Conservatives are the reason for the failure of this one.

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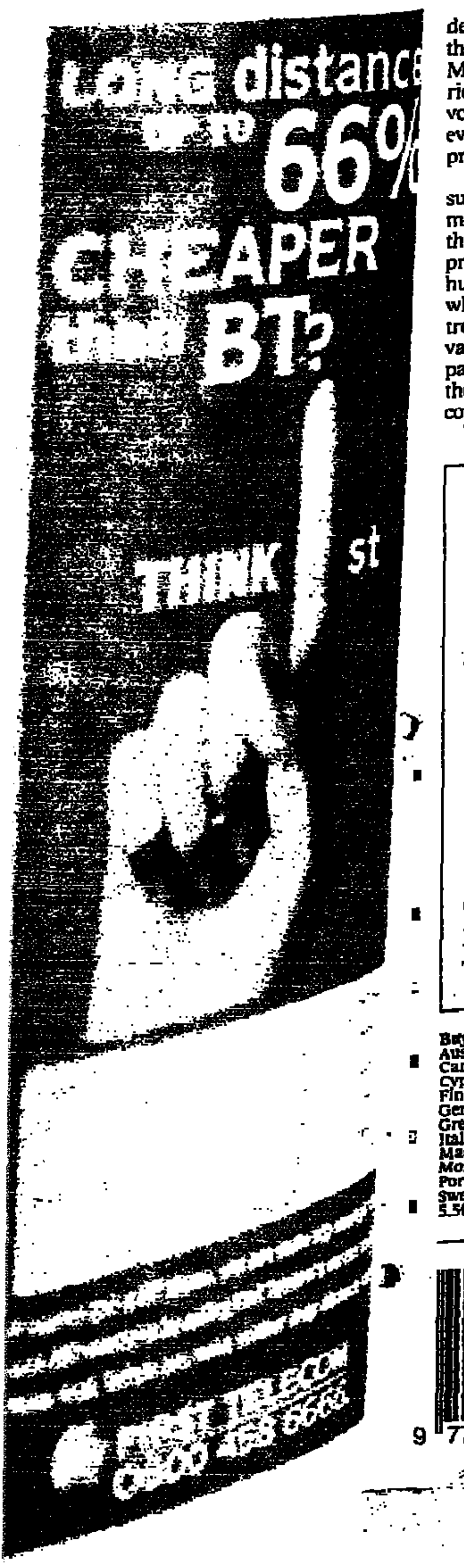

ANDRE CAMARA

Elton John before the sale of his clothes, which raised more than £50,000 for his Aids foundation on its first day.

Tax-free savings at the checkout

By Nicholas Wood and Anne Ashworth

SUPERMARKETS will play a key role in a savings revolution to be unveiled by Gordon Brown next week.

In a move aimed at encouraging lower-income people to build up a nest-egg, the Chancellor's scheme will also allow small savers to earn interest free of tax. The new-look "individual savings accounts" (Isas) will be sold and serviced at supermarket checkouts.

Ministers expect that shoppers paying their bills will be asked if they want to put £20 in their Isa, much as they are now asked if they want to draw cash.

Such big retail chains as Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury's, and Tesco are expected to promote the new accounts, which insiders at the Treasury have dubbed "People's Peps".

Isas will replace existing tax-free savings, including Tessas (tax-exempt special savings accounts). They will also embrace instant-access bank and building society savings accounts, currently liable to income tax.

Tessas require savers to lock up their money for five years to earn a tax-free return, but the new accounts will not need a waiting period. Small savers, putting aside perhaps a few hundred pounds a year, will enjoy the same tax privileges as bigger investors in Peps and Tessas.

There will still be limits on the amounts of money that can be deposited tax-free, but the ceiling will be higher than the £10,000 figure floated last month. This compares with an annual Pep limit of £9,000 and £9,000 over five years for Tessas.

Weekend Money, pages 51-64

Blair hopes to save coal jobs

The Government is looking at detailed plans to save the coal industry amid the controversy over pit closures and the loss of thousands of jobs.

An initiative from No 10 looks at measures to ensure the industry's survival over the next five to seven years which may include altering the balance of use between gas and coal ....Page 27

Islanders are ready to flee

An evacuation plan is being drawn up by a group of Pacific islands after research showing that global warming and rising sea levels will eventually make them uninhabitable.

The Marshall Islands are believed to be the first of a string of low-lying Pacific and Caribbean states to consider such drastic action .... Page 20

Belgians to ban tobacco ads

The Belgian Parliament has voted to ban tobacco advertising from roadside billboards, newspapers, magazines, supermarkets and pubs.

British Government sources said that the Belgian development would have no impact on Tony Blair's decision to exempt Formula One motor racing ....Page 2

Porn again pilgrims flock to the festival

By Michael Gove

THE biggest concentration of rubber outside Malaya was on display at London's Olympia Exhibition Centre yesterday at *Erotica*, Britain's first commercial sex fair — a sort of Ideal Hormone Exhibition.

The attempt by the UK's porn, fetish and fantasy industry to go respectable is expected to attract more than 20,000 curious customers to the three-day festival. For £25 they can visit a selection of stalls from Karmafootra to Fantasy Liquid Latex and buy something for the weekend or the best-selling video *House of Whipcord*.

The exhibition is the brainchild of Brian Wiseman, a rag trade magnate turned conference organiser who graciously acknowledges the help of the Metropolitan Police Vice Squad in his introduction to the event. The constabulary had given the event their seal of approval and Hammersmith had allowed Olympia to enjoy a sex establishment licence for the weekend.

Mr Wiseman conceived of the exhibition after detecting a market for "naughty but nice" merchandise in "middle-shelf" men's magazines such as *FHM* and *Maxim*.

The exhibition, a stallholder explained, was aimed more at the "leather-jacketed lad than the dirty raincoat brigade".

Not all the women present were gracing book covers, however. The event organisers were at pains to emphasise that the show was aimed at all (not just both) sexes. One female shopper, Jenny Ford from North London, had made the trip to Olympia to "stock up on erotic lingerie".

Ms Ford ,"put me down as 29", and her boyfriend who preferred to remain anonymousinvested in a *handsome cat-o-nine tails* for only £20. "It's a bit of fun isn't it?" giggled Ms Ford. Her boyfriend kept quiet.

I made my excuses and left.

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Bigger and Better

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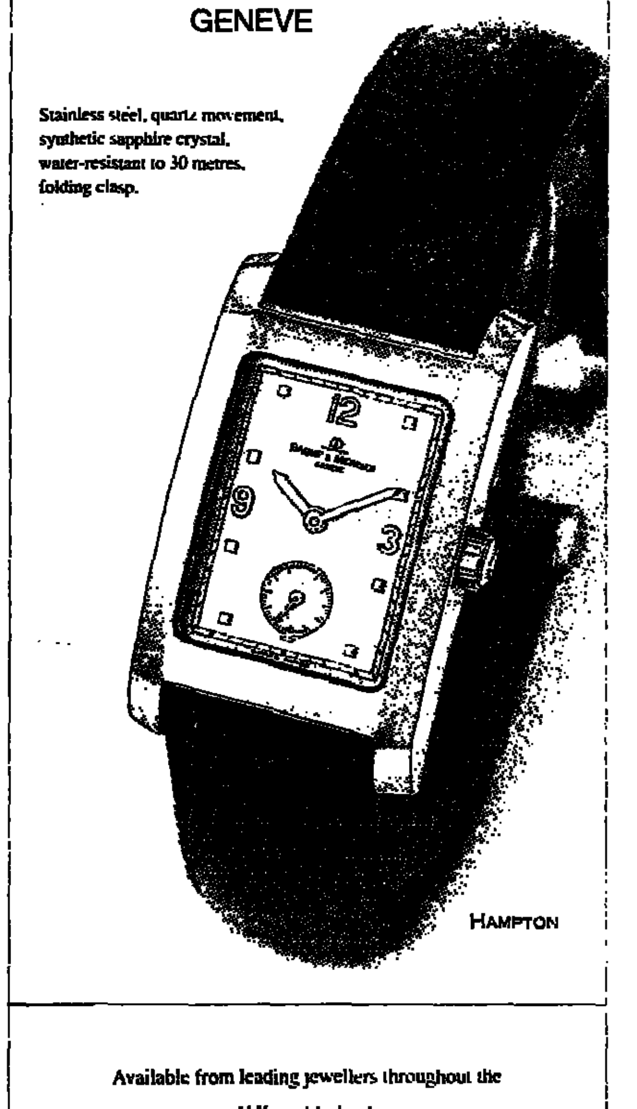

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TODAY IN THE TIMES

'He was stunned when it was said he had 12 mistresses'

Lord Spencer's divorce case
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'I didn't know how to have fun in the Sixties'

Valerie Grove meets Joan Baez
Page 21

'Hitler patted him on the head as a child'

Daniel Farson obituary
Page 25

Belgium votes to ban tobacco advertising

By Nicholas Watt
and Our Foreign Staff

TONY BLAIR's *difficulties in winning* an exemption for Formula One from a Europe-wide ban on tobacco sponsorship deepened last night when Belgium voted for a blanket ban.

Less than a week before European health ministers meet in Brussels to *hammer out a* directive banning tobacco sponsorship, the Belgian parliament voted to ban tobacco advertising from roadside billboards, *newspapers, magazines, supermarkets* and pubs. It will also outlaw sponsorship of sports, cultural and musical events.

British Government sources said that the Belgian development would have no impact on Mr Blair's decision to exempt Formula One motor racing from a ban on tobacco advertising and sponsorship. One source said that Tessa Jowell, the Health Minister, would demand at next Thursday's *meeting of European health ministers* that Formula One be exempted in order to save motor racing 50,000 jobs.

One Government source said: "There will be no pressure on us to change our minds. The only effect will be on public opinion." At next week's meeting Ms Jowell will be hoping to delay the drafting of the Directive until next year during Britain's presidency of the EU.

The change in the law stunned organisers of the Belgian Grand Prix, who warned last night that it would kill off the annual race at the Spa-Francorchamps track. *Joseph Moxhet,* president of the Spa-Francorchamps track, said: "It's quite simple. I fear next year's Belgian Grand Prix will be the last." The law, which will come into force on January 1. 1999, will only allow tobacco and newspaper shops to indicate they are selling tobacco *products.*

Louis Van Velthoven, a Flemish socialist who proposed the law, hailed yesterday's vote in the Belgian senate. He told BRTN *Radio:* "This is one of the strictest laws in Europe and it makes me happy. Belgium is giving, with other countries including France, a good signal to Europe to allow a European directive banning tobacco advertising and sponsoring on a *European level. We absolutely need* this directive because I don't have to tell you that youth is still confronted with cigarette brands if Formula One *races are held in Germany or Italy.*"

Mr Van Velhoven called on organisers of the Belgian Grand Prix to find other sponsors. He said: "They should get the opportunity to find other financial sources. Tobacco firms too should be able to remove advertising. There is now a majority in this country against tobacco advertising and sponsoring. Should we find any loopholes, we are determined to close those too."

The European Commission has been seeking a total ban of tobacco advertising for the past eight years. But Britain, Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark have blocked its proposals on several occasions.

Labour, which had campaigned for a total ban, infuriated the European *Commission earlier this month when it* announced that Formula One should be exempted. Padraig Flynn, the Social Affairs Commissioner, wrote a stinging *letter to Ms Jowell after she* informed him of the Government about-turn. Mr Blair's change of heart also led to enormous political difficulties at home and within his own party.

Class size increase threatens poll target

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

CLASS sizes rose again last year to a 20-year high, it was announced yesterday. However, the Government insisted that it was on target to meet its promise of smaller classes in the first three years of school by the end of the Parliament.

The number of pupils for every state school teacher rose from 18.5 to 18.6 in January. More than a quarter of primary children were in classes of more than 30, compared with barely a fifth in 1992.

Labour's election manifesto promised that classes of five, six and seven-year-olds would have a maximum of 30 pupils. The figures show that almost 500,000 children in this age-group are in larger classes.

Stephen Byers, the School *Standards Minister, said that* schools were already planning to reduce class sizes. The abolition of the Assisted Places Scheme would free £22 million next year to employ 1,000 more primary teachers, with numbers rising after that.

DARKO VOJINOVIC

Tony Blair has lunch yesterday with British troops in Banja Luka, the largest Serb-held town in Bosnia

Blair pledges to fight Bosnia war criminals

Tony Blair, on his first visit to Bosnia yesterday, underlined his determination to see war criminals brought to justice. He also, thanked British peacekeeping troops for their "tremendous" contribution but made clear Britain did not plan to remove its military presence from the region in the near future. He said: "Those people that committed crimes of ethnic cleansing and were responsible for the appalling scenes that we saw here in Bosnia, those people responsible for that should be brought to justice."

Plan for lawyers to sit on the bench

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

PLANS for judicial "work experience" schemes in which black lawyers can sit alongside judges and learn what it is like on the bench are expected to be unveiled by the Lord Chancellor today.

Lord Irvine of Lairg would also like to see circuit judges, district judges and recorders take junior colleagues "under their wing" to advise and guide them up the judicial ladder. The proposals will be put forward at a conference organised by the Law Society, *Bar and Lord Chancellor's* Department with sponsorship from *The Times.*

The Lord Chancellor is concerned at the paucity of black judges and black Queen's Counsel. He is expected to reveal figures showing that the number of ethnic minority lawyers applying to be Queen's Counsel has fallen.

In 1992, *there* were 420 applications for silk, of which only 14 or 3.3 per cent were not white. But in 1997, it stood at only 2.4 per cent. There are no black judges in the senior judiciary. Only one per cent of circuit judges are *not* white, and 1.5 per cent of recorders. But 3.4 per cent of assistant recorders are from the ethnic *minorities,* and are likely to appointed as judges in time.

Lord Irvine is expected to call on more ethnic minority lawyers to come forward. They should forget social sterotypes about judges or the statistics which show the predominance of judges from public school, he is likely to say.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hague devises new slogan for Tories

William Hague began the rebranding of the Conservative Party yesterday with the launch of "popular Conservatism" to rival "new Labour". In a speech to the Tory women's conference in London, he said that the slogan covered reforming the welfare *system, supporting institutions* such as the family, and enhancing community and security.

"Popular Conservatism will be about building strong and free local institutions to support community and security. Popular Conservatism will be about enforcing the rule of law," he said. The Tory leader said that he would hold a conference in Harrogate in March to vote on his reforms of the party, *and that there would be another* "bonding session" for Conservative MPs *next* year.

Beckett under pressure

Margaret Beckett was facing growing pressure last night to wind-up the blind trust that finances her constituency office in the House of Commons. The President of the Board of Trade yesterday defended her secret source of funding but said that if the investigation into party political funding by Sir *Patrick Neill, the Public Standards* watchdog, criticised the confidential trusts she would close it.

Mild spell at an end

The first snows of winter were forecast yesterday, with the unseasonally mild November weather ending early next week. Sharply colder conditions, including night-time frosts and snow showers over higher ground in eastern Britain, are expected. Forecasters said that the warm spell of weather made November the fourth mildest this century, with temperatures some 0.8C above average. **Forecast, page 32**

£36 mushroom infested

A wild cauliflower mushroom bought for £36 at Harvey Nichols in Knightsbridge, London, was contaminated with *rodent droppings and hair; and infested with a centipede and* larvae. The store admitted selling food unfit for consumption and was fined £1,500 with £2,083 costs by West London magistrates. The customer was an off-duty environmental health officer for Kensington and Chelsea council.

Pupil cannot return

The High Court yesterday refused to order a Kent girls' school to take back an unruly 14-year-old even though her as*sisted place was withdrawn unlawfully. Rosalind McCarthy,* the headmistress of Cobham School, considered the excluded girl's place an "immoral" waste of public money. Mr Justice Dyson said he could not ignore a petition signed by 15 pupils who said they were "terrified" of her.

Guerin suspect jailed

Patrick Holland, 38, who was suspected of involvement in the murder of the journalist Veronica Guerin, was jailed for 20 years for drug dealing, the most severe sentence ever handed down in Ireland for the crime. The Special Criminal Court was told that Holland received about 35 kg of cannabis a week for several months from a Dublin lock-up. The *20,000 kg of cannabis had an estimated value of £20 million.*

No more Hawick Balls

After more than 100 years, Hawick Balls — the mint-flavoured sweets favoured by yachtsmen and Antarctic explorers — are no longer being made. Hills of Hawick is in receivership and the staff of seven have been laid off. The balls were first produced in the 1850s by two local women, Aggie Lamb and Jessie McVittie. In their heyday more than 12,000 tins of balls were sold *every year, at £1.80 a tin.*

Christmas post dates

Christmas cards going across the globe should be in the post by next Saturday, according to the Royal Mail. Cards and letters to addresses within Europe should be posted by December 13 to arrive before Christmas Day. Inland second-class cards should be sent by December 18. For first-class mail the last posting date is December 21. The Royal Mail is expecting to handle more than two billion cards.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

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Beckett under pressur

Mild spell at an end

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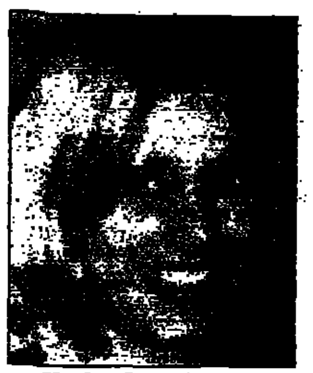
Second body from Luxor massacre lost

Woman killed with mother and daughter was wrongly identified, **Paul Wilkinson** reports



Karina Turner: may have been cremated

THE body of a second member of the family killed in the massacre at the Egyptian tourist resort of Luxor has been lost. Grieving relatives were told yesterday that Karina Turner's remains might already have been cremated elsewhere.

The 24-year-old air stewardess died with her mother, Joan Turner, 51, and her daughter, *Shaumnah, 5. Earlier this* week it was discovered that the coffin supposed to contain the body of Karina Turner's mother actually contained that of a Swiss woman. Joan Turner's body lay in Zurich.

The three bodies were initially identified by Egyptian authorities before repatriation. Those of Karina Turner and her mother were wrongly identified in London by three people who knew the family, including a relative.

James Turnbull, the deputy assistant coroner for Halifax, said that he was scouring the world to find Miss Turner's body. "I like to be optimistic that the missing body will be found. It is a sad possibility that she could have been buried or cremated in another country but I have asked the Foreign Office for descriptions of all people killed in the tragedy to find out where she has gone." He has asked diplomats to ensure that *no further funerals of victims* matching Miss Turner's description are held.

Mr Turnbull added: "All I can do is to say that I will move heaven and earth to assist the investigation so that we first get Joan Turner's body back to this country and secondly locate Karina's body. I am deeply upset. I have no idea where Karina's body is."

He expressed his deepest sympathy for the relatives. "I can imagine them feeling deep *distress and anger and I can* hardly imagine a situation for them which could have been worse. First of all their family were murdered in terrible circumstances but on top of that there is this added difficulty."

Last night Laurence Whitton, Shaunnah's grandfather, called the authorities who *mixed* up the bodies "blundering fools". He put some of the blame on Joan Turner's nephew, Ken *Robertshaw, an inspector with* West Yorkshire Police, who he said had identified his aunt and Karina.

Mr Whitton said: "That inspector identified them and it's their name on the death certificate. There has been a cock-up. We just want to put them to rest so we can return to some kind of normality."

Mr Turnbull said the bodies had been identified under the jurisdiction of the West London coroner, Dr John Burton, *after they were flown to* Heathrow. He said: "The process of identification by visual means is always upsetting, distressing and difficult, even in the best of circumstances. These were not the best of circumstances. The subjects had been dead for some days and transported a long distance. They had been murdered and obiously suffered fatal gun injuries.

"There are similarities between people of varying ages. I can understand it happening and I do not offer any criticism of the person who did the *identification."*

A colleague of Inspector Robertshaw at the West Yorkshire Police HQ in Wakefield said: "He is distraught. How would you feel?"

Internet ban on 'domain names' sales

By Adrian Lee

TWO businessmen were banned yesterday from registering Internet addresses based on the *names of leading* companies for their own profit.

In a clear warning to others, a *High Court judge said that* the practice, which is widespread on the Internet, would not be tolerated.

Richard Conway and Julian Nicholson, both 23, specialised in registering "domain names" such as "ladbrokes.com", which are the essential part of locating websites. The pair registered the names for a few pounds and intended to sell them to the companies involved for large sums, the court was told.

Deputy Judge Jonathan Sumption, QC, granted injunctions to five companies — Ladbrokes, BT, Virgin Enterprises, J. Sainsbury and Marks & Spencer — and ordered the two men to pay £65,000 costs.

Mr Conway and Mr Nicholson and their businesses, One in a Million, Global Media Communications and Junic, registered the names and offered them for sale in much the same way as company registration agents.

The court heard that Mr Conway wrote to Burger King *offering to sell them the name* "burgerking.co.uk." for £25,000 plus VAT, otherwise it would be available for sale to any other interested party.

The judge stressed the mere registration of a name was not, in itself, passing-off or infringement of a trade mark. But the obvious threat was there and injunctions should be granted to prevent it.

Other names offered by Global included "macdonalds.co.uk" and "thetimes.co.uk", "spicegirls.net" and "buckinghampalace.org".

The judge also directed the men to take steps to have the disputed names assigned to the complaining companies.

Mr Conway, who thought up the idea with Mr Nicholson at university, said they were considering appealing.

JEFF J. MITCHELL

Firefox of China views its northern world

A red panda cub, one of two born at Edinburgh Zoo in July, explores its enclosure yesterday. The rare pair, a female and a male, whose numbers are threatened by the destruction of their natural habitat, still do not have names and zoo staff *have* launched a competition to name them. Karen Howlett, their keeper, told of her delight with her charges. "We're so pleased. The cubs only started to emerge from their cubbing dens in October. Now they're coming out every day, exploring their enclosure, learning to climb the trees, playing with each other, and eating bamboo and fruit." In the wild they live in forests in China, northern India, Nepal and Burma. Being much smaller and more agile than their giant panda cousins, they can climb steeper slopes and live at higher altitudes. Although bamboo is their staple food they eat the occasional egg or small bird. The Chinese were so entranced with their titian-coloured coats that they called them firefoxes.

Vet hopes for appeal after note discovered

By Richard Ford

A VET serving life for the murder of his wife has had his case referred back to the Court of Appeal after the discovery of a note suggesting she intended to kill herself. Ryan James, 42, has consistently claimed that his wife committed suicide but made it look like murder.

The note was discovered in March 1996 by the woman he had married in jail, in an old copy of the *Veterinary Record*. It read: "Ryan, I leave you absolutely nothing but this note — if you find it in time, *Sam." Sam was his wife* Sandra's pet name.

The note expresses her bitterness at learning of her husband's affair with Catherine Crooks, who married Mr James four months after his 1995 conviction. Handwriting and forensic experts have confirmed that the note was written by Sandra James.

Yesterday the Criminal Cases Review Commission referred the case back to the Appeal Court. A letter to James's lawyer concluded: "We consider there is a real possibility *that his conviction would not* be upheld on a referral." The note was evidence that had not been considered at the trial or *at an earlier hearing at the* Appeal Court in 1996.

James, who denied murder, was convicted at Stafford Crown Court; he had poisoned his wife with a drug used to anaesthetise horses, apparently because he wanted to collect her life insurance, to support his new life with Ms Crooks.

Accountant gambled £7m in clients' cash

By Paul Whittaker

A PARTNER in a City firm of accountants who swindled the funds of his rich and famous clients to wager more than £7 million on horse races was jailed for two and a half years yesterday.

In all Alan Lewis, 45, unemployed of Golders Green, northwest London, gambled £7,049,838 over six years for *the overall loss of £391,531. He* swindled his clients, including a member of the Electric Light Orchestra, another British *Eighties pop band* Londonbeat and former British Olympic cyclist Malcolm Elliott. He had acted as their tax adviser.

Although an unqualified accountant, Lewis was rated so highly that Mayfair tax specialists Gelfand, Rennert, Feldman and Brown International sought special permission from the Institute of Chartered Accountants to enable him to join as a partner in 1987. The company, with offices across America, handles the British touring companies *of such stars as Michael* Jackson, Bon Jovi and Billy Joel.

Mr Martyn Bowyer, for the prosecution, said at Southwark Crown Court that the full loss to the firm as a result *of Lewis's dishonesty* was £1.4 million, part of which has been recovered by insurance claims. He said Lewis had gambled all the money away and that he had no assets.

Mr Bowyer said Lewis needed to "juggle" huge sums of money to disguise what was going on. He attempted to cover his tracks by making false entries in the books.

Ian Bourne, for the defence, said his client was a "pathological gambler" and not a seeker of the trappings of wealth. There was no *evidence* of fast living or of the purchase of expensive status symbols. "*Every penny he could get his* hands on went to the bookmakers."

Hardly a day went by "*when Lewis did not put in a* bet at the bookmakers". Lewis began gambling at 12 and spent his spare time studying the bloodline of racehorses.

In sentencing Lewis, Judge Paul Focke, QC, said: "You betrayed the trust of the firm you worked for and the trust of your clients."

Cyclist Malcolm Elliott lost money

RAF man denies car crash deception

By Michael Horsnell

THE RAF officer accused of murdering his wife for the love of a young Serbian interpreter yesterday denied that he was "play-acting" to escape justice.

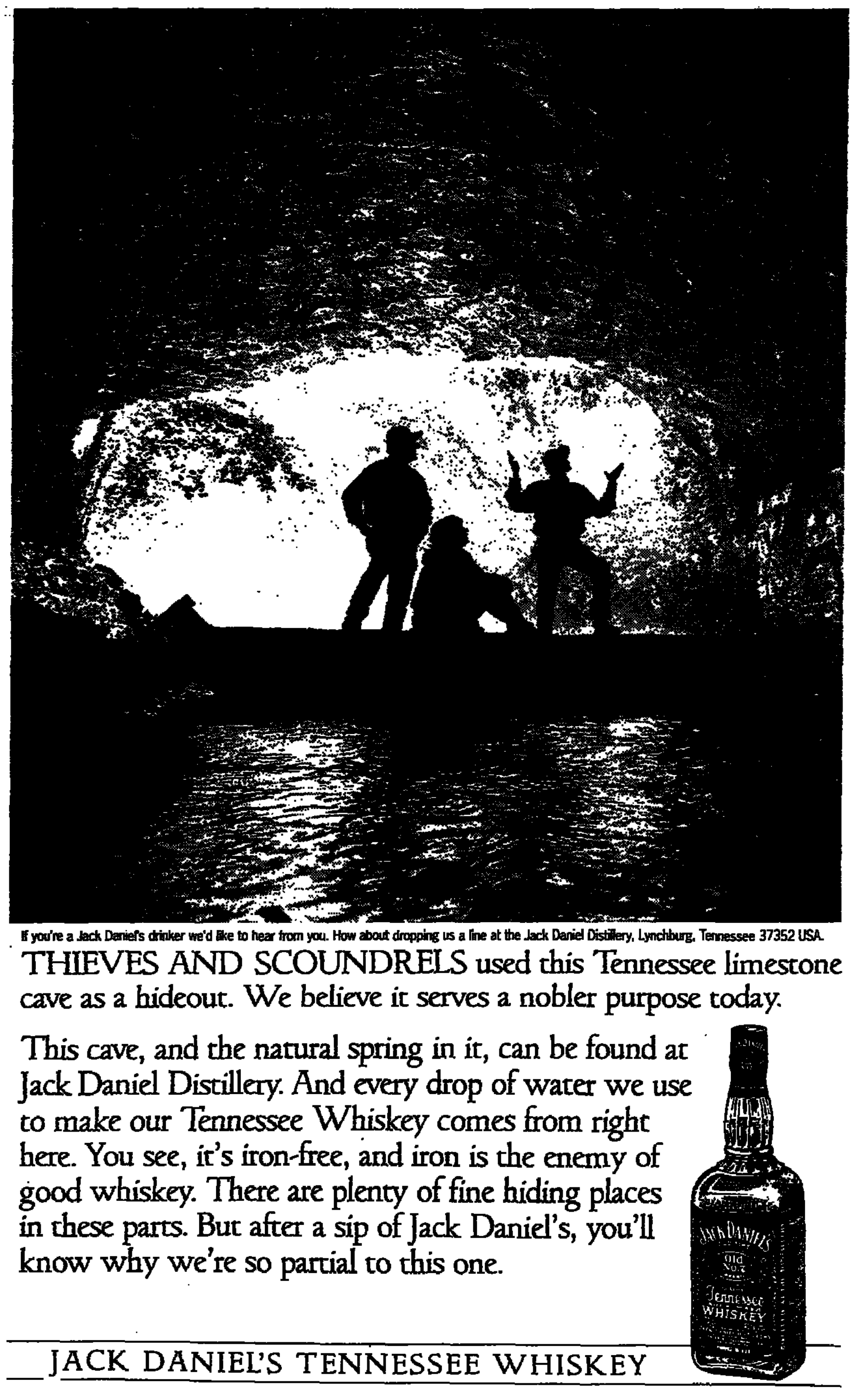
Squadron Leader Nicholas Tucker told Norwich Crown Court it was untrue that he had tried to deceive emergency services attending the scene of a car crash he is alleged to have faked in a river to dispose *of his wife. He said he could* not remember details of the accident, which ended with his wife, Carol, 52, drowning in *the River Lark in Suffolk.*

He denied that he *had* placed himself in the water, apparently unconscious, after first throttling her and then manhandling her body *out of* the car. He went on to offer a new explanation for bloodstains, alleged to be his, found on her side of their Ford Fiesta after the accident on the night of July 21, 1995.

Mr Tucker said the stains on her half of the dashboard and on her door could have been caused when he cut his hand removing a dog gate *from the car two or three days* before her death. The prosecution alleges that the blood was transferred from a cut to his forehead as he tugged her out of the vehicle.

He admitted that he had not mentioned his explanation to police. Mr Tucker, 46, denies murdering his wife after developing a fascination for Dijana Dudokovic, 21, whom *he met while serving as a UN military observer in Bosnia.*

The trial continues.



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Voice of racing makes one last call

By Richard Evans, *Racing Correspondent*

Sir Peter: concerned for racehorses' welfare

SIR PETER O'SULLEVAN, the "Voice of Racing" for half a century, made an impassioned plea on behalf of racehorses' welfare last night as he prepared to deliver his final BBC commentary at Newbury this afternoon.

The legendary commentator, whose gravelly tones and rapid style of delivery have endeared him to generations of racing fans, wants jockeys to to use an air-cushioned whip *that* does not *hurt* horses or inflict injury. He also called on the sport to fund a group of rehabilitation centres where *racehorses could* go at the end of their racing careers and be retrained as police horses, *used in riding* stables, or for hunting.

More than 20,000 people are expected at Newbury this afternoon as Sir Peter, 79, who delivered his first television commentary at Kempton in 1946, gives his final commentary in *the Hennessy* Cognac Gold Cup.

About 50 horses die each year either racing or training, while *hundreds suffer injuries*. There is just one centre — in Cumbria — devoted exclusively to rehabilitating racehorses, but *that has only* ten boxes and is reliant on donations. "There should be *official funding from racing's* coffers. The important thing is to make provision before the thoroughbred starts on that *slippery slope down the ladder,"* Sir Peter said.

He said riders should start using an air-cushioned whip *designed by Jim Mahon. "It* makes a noise and the horse would know he had been hit, but it can't inflict surface *damage or, as the current* whip does, damage beneath the skin."

Simon Barnes, page 43

هكذا من الاصل

Quiet majority invoked to silence hounds

By James Landale and Polly Newton

MICHAEL FOSTER claimed the support of the British *people and* called on the House of Commons to stand up for "the quiet majority" when he introduced his anti-hunting Bill yesterday. Mr Foster told a packed chamber that he had received 10,000 *letters from across the country* supporting the Bill.

Opening the debate on the Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill, the Labour MP for Worcester said: "The aim of this Bill is to protect *wild mammals from cruelty* and from the unnecessary pain and suffering inflicted in the name of a so-called sport."

He quoted witnesses who described how a pack of hounds "savaged" a pregnant *vixen. One of them,* Eric Griffin, 71, had said: "It is the worst thing I have seen in my life. The hounds were totally out of control and tearing at the vixen. Three cubs spilled out. They were fully devel*oped. I saw the dogs eat one of* them."

Mr Foster's Bill did not cover shooting and fishing. Challenged by Tory MPs why he felt fishing was no less cruel, he said: "I don't believe *for one moment that* any reasonable person in this country actually thinks fishing and hunting with dogs have anything in common."

In hare-coursing, the greyhound and lurchers caught the hare quickly, "but they then use the hare as a living tug-of-war rope, pulled between them".

The cruellest form of hunting was the pursuit of deer with hounds. He admitted that "the sight of a full field of horses and hounds is absolutely thrilling" and "part of English history. The fieldcraft of a huntsman is remarkable and the skill of the hounds marvellous to watch." But studies showed that "lengthy hunts with hounds impose extreme stress on red deer and are likely to cause them great suffering".

Mr Foster denied that foxhunting controlled a pest. More than 80,000 foxes were shot each year while only 12,000 were killed by hunts. Foxhounds were bred for stamina to prolong the chase and he rejected claims that the kill was quick.

Mr Foster said that many *hunts operated near schools* and often shocked children. Draghunting was an effective alternative.

"How can we pass judgment on Pakistan, where they set dogs onto bears, or on Spanish bullfighting, when we in this country allow dogs to be set upon deer?" he told MPs. "I urge you all to stand proud, to make your mark in this House, to vote to end the unnecessary, the cruel, the *outdated practice of hunting* with dogs."

When Mr Foster referred to his postbag of 10,000 anti-hunt letters, **James Gray** (C, Wiltshire North) intervened to say that he had received 2,374 letters from his constituents, with only 467 against the Bill.

> ‘I urge you, stand proud to end this cruel and outdated practice’

Alan Beith (Lib Dem, Berwick-upon-Tweed) said the argument against hunting was not strong enough to send people to prison and to destroy local communities.

He told hunt opponents: "What you are doing is making common criminals out of people who are engaged in an activity which has been engaged in for hundreds of years and who, in all other respects, are regarded as responsible members of society." **Douglas Hogg** (C, Sleaford and North Hykeham), the former Agriculture Minister, said that hunting was no different from fishing and shooting in that all involved some degree of suffering. "They are either all of them right or none of them are *right. I happen to believe that* all of them are right."

Sir Richard Body (C, Boston and Skegness) said draghunting would not be able to absorb all the former hunting enthusiasts if the Bill were passed. The grassland needed for this sport was becoming increasingly rare and farmers were not willing to allow more than one draghunt on their land each season.

Andrew Bennett (Lab, Den*ton and Reddish) warned the* House of Lords not to block the Bill if it received a clear majority. "They should think very carefully before they defeat the will of the people."

Kevin McNamara (Hull *North) urged the Government* to find time for the Bill to pass through Parliament. "This is one occasion when new Labour can take a lesson from old Labour — listen to the voice of the House, see what the nature *of the majority is, and then* supply the time."

Llin Golding (Lab, Newcastle-under-Lyme) said the Bill was wrong because it would damage attempts to control mink. "These are the nastiest and most destructive animals in the country," she said.

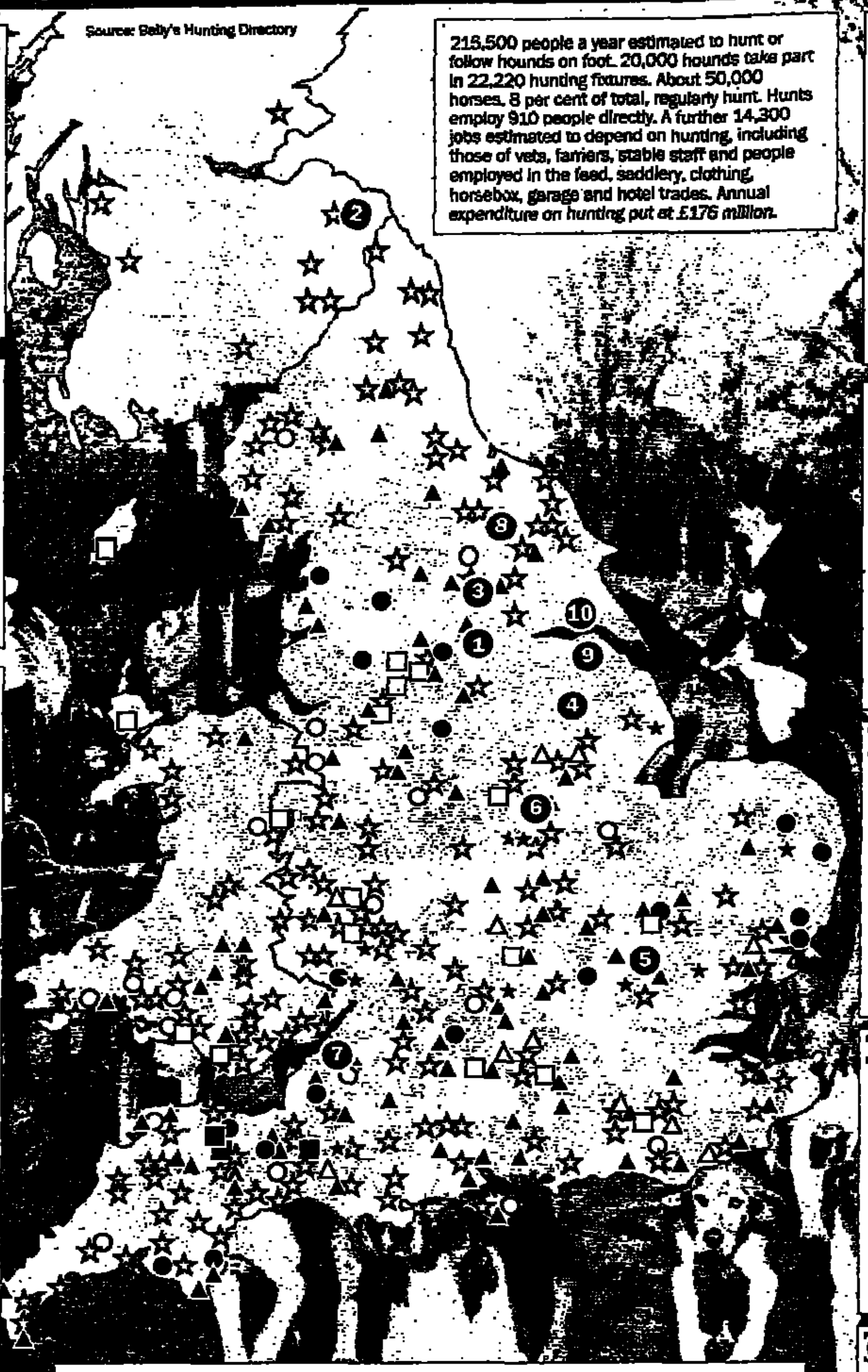
Alan Clark (C, Kensington and Chelsea) said he had always been committed to animal welfare, but believed the Bill was poorly drafted and would give the police too much power.

"It is not an exaggeration to say that, on the literal terms of this Bill, a family that goes to the park with a dog and their children and are reported as possibly being about to use that dog to chase a wild mammal, like a squirrel, can not only have their dog impounded and ... disposed of but also their car, and find themselves subject to draconian fines."

Mr Clark said that the Bill made no attempt to tackle the suffering endured by animals in laboratories and on factory farms. "It is a distraction from the real and fundamental issues of animal welfare which need daily to receive attention and correction."

THE TEN OLDEST FOXHUNTS AND WHERE THE REST OF BRITAIN HUNTS

Source: Baily's Hunting Directory



215,500 people a year estimated to hunt or follow hounds on foot. 20,000 hounds take part in 22,220 hunting fixtures. About 50,000 horses, 8 per cent of total, regularly hunt. Hunts employ 910 people directly. A further 14,300 jobs estimated to depend on hunting, including those of vets, farriers, stable staff and people employed in the feed, saddlery, clothing, horsebox, garage and hotel trades. Annual *expenditure on hunting put at £176 million.*

8 BILSDALE

Distinctive collar: Scarlet.
Evening dress: None.
Kennels: Bilsdale, Yorkshire Dales. 20 pairs of fell hounds.
Subscribers: 40 paying £195 a year each. Day visitors pay £25.
Hunt days: Tues and Sat.
History: *Claims to be oldest foxhunt in* Britain. Founded in 1668 by second Duke of Buckingham foxhunt, who caused a scandal by living openly with the Countess of Shrewsbury after killing her husband in a duel. Terrain rough, mainly moorland and forestry.

3 BRAMHAM MOOR

Distinctive collar: None.
Evening dress: Red, white facings, silver buttons.
Kennels: Bramham, West Yorkshire. 33 pairs of hounds.
Subscribers: 90 paying £290-£500 *each a year. Day visitors pay £35-£50.*
Hunt days: Wed and Sat.
History: Founded between 1740 and 1750. Country lies in West and North Yorkshire, with a mixture of grassland with stone walls, woodland and ploughed land with ditches.

1 BADSWORTH

Distinctive collar: Blue velvet.
Evening dress: White facings, blue velvet collar.
Kennels: Thorpe Audlin, West Yorkshire. 28 pairs of hounds.
Subscribers: 65 paying £485 a year each. Day visitors pay £40.
Hunt days: Tues and Sat.
History: Dates from 1720-35. Country *lies* wholly in Yorkshire, stretching from Pennines to Humber at Goole. Enjoys good support from local farmers and landowners.

6 QUORN

Distinctive collar: None.
Evening dress: Red, light blue facings, hunt buttons.
Kennels: Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire.
Subscribers: 400 paying £250-£1,250 a year each. Day visitors pay £130.
Hunt days: Mon, Tues, Fri and Sat.
History: Dates from 1698. Country lies in Leicestershire with a few coverts in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, covering an area 28 miles east to west and 20 miles north to south. A favourite hunt of the Prince of Wales.

7 BERKELEY

Uniform: *Yellow cloth with green collar* (masters and hunt servants only)
Evening dress: Dark blue, dark blue velvet collar, maroon facings.
Kennels: Berkeley, Gloucestershire. 35 pairs of hounds.
Subscribers: 200 paying £300-£1,500 a year each. Day visitors pay £80-£100.
Hunt days: Wed and Sat.
History: *Hounds kept at Berkeley since* 12th century, at first to hunt stag and buck. Switched to foxhunting in 18th century. Hounds and kennels still owned by Berkeley family. Country lies in Gloucestershire and Avon. Obstacles include, banks, ditches, hedges and stone walls.

WHAT THE HOUNDS HUNT:

☆ **Foxhounds:** 196 packs. Huntsmen mounted, apart from small number of packs followed on foot. Like other types of hounds, follow prey by scent rather than sight.
● **Harriers:** 18 packs. Hunt hares and foxes. Followers mounted.
▲ **Beagles:** 74 packs. Hunt hares. Foot followers only.
★ **Basset hounds:** 11 packs. Hunt hares. Foot followers only.
○ **Mink hounds:** 19 packs. Bred from remnant of original otter - hunting stock. Foot followers.
■ **Staghounds:** 3 packs. Trained to hunt deer. Mounted followers.
△ **Bloodhounds:** 11 packs. Follow scent of human runner. Hunt mounted.
□ **Draghounds:** 17 packs. No live prey. Follow artificial scented trail. Mounted followers.

2 BERWICKSHIRE

Distinctive collar: Green *(master and* hunt servants only).
Evening dress: Scarlet coat, primrose facings and breeches.
Kennels: Duns, Borders, 25 pairs of hounds.
Subscribers: 60 (some part-time) paying £200-£450 a year each. Day visitors pay £35.
Hunt days: Tues and Sat.
History: Hunt known to have existed as early as 1740. Very varied country covering almost 360 square miles, ranging from heather hills, through open stock farming to predominantly arable areas.

10 HOLDERNESS

Distinctive collar: Primrose yellow (lady masters and secretary only).
Evening dress: Red cloth dress coat, white silk facings, hunt buttons.
Kennels: Beverley, East Yorkshire. 35 *pairs of hounds.*
Subscribers: 60 paying £515-£545 a year each. Day visitors pay £40.
Hunt days: Tues and Sat.
History: Founded in 1726. Covers area stretching 50 miles from north to south and 40 miles east to west in East Yorkshire. Predominantly arable land with drainage ditches. Good horse and bold riders required.

9 BROCKLESBY

Distinctive collar: None.
Evening dress: Red, white waistcoat, hunt buttons.
Kennels: Brocklesby, Lincolnshire. 40 pairs of hounds.
Subscribers: 125 paying £330-£395 a year each. Day visitors pay £30.
Hunt days: Wed and Sat.
History: Formed in 1713 by the Pelham family (the Earls of Yarborough) and has been hunted by them throughout its history. Country runs from the Humber estuary to Market Rasen. Fast gallops *over open wold.*

4 BURTON

Distinctive collar: None.
Evening dress: Red, with white silk facings, hunt buttons.
Kennels: Riseholme, Lincolnshire. 26 pairs of hounds.
Subscribers: 50 paying £400-£500 a year each. Day visitors pay £25.
Hunt days: Wed and Sat.
History: In existence since 1672. Hunt country lies in northern part of Lincolnshire. Once covered a much larger area. Arable land with ditches and dykes as main obstacles.

5 PUCKERIDGE

Distinctive collar: None.
Evening dress: Red coat. No special facings
Kennels: Buntingford, Hertfordshire. 35 pairs of hounds.
Subscribers: 60 paying £60-£600 a year each. Day visitors pay £25-£50.
Hunt days: Wed and Sat.
History: Dates from 1725. Country straddles Hertfordshire, Essex and Cambridgeshire. Numerous banks and blind ditches require skilled riding on well-bred horses.

Bill ‘shows Labour intolerance’

By James Landale, Political Reporter

MICHAEL HESELTINE told MPs that a ban on hunting would not save a single animal and would damage rural communities. Leading opposition to the Bill, the former Deputy Prime Minister said that the measure displayed a "streak of intolerance" in the Labour Party.

He declared that although he *did not* hunt, he did shoot and fish, and claimed that the Bill was part of a plan by the animal welfare lobby to ban these sports in the future.

Mr Heseltine (C, Henley) said *that the* Bill allowed *the* flushing out of foxes, which constituted an admission that alternatives to hunting with hounds, such as shooting or snaring, could not guarantee the killing of foxes.

The rich would not suffer from the Bill, he said, because they would go abroad to hunt, but working-class people would be harmed. "How is it that a party which spends most of its life arguing about the creation of jobs, in one piece of legislation is going to decimate the jobs throughout some of the more *remote* and fragile economies in the country?" asked Mr Heseltine.

Michael Heseltine, left, and John Gummer

John Gummer (C, Suffolk Coastal), the former Environment Secretary, said that other methods of culling foxes were "cruel and less effective. *In the hunt, the* quarry is either killed or not killed." The Bill was not, he claimed, about cruelty, otherwise opponents of hunting would be just as concerned about the welfare of rats. "It's an issue of sentimentality."

Accusing Labour of wanting to protect pregnant foxes while supporting greater abortion rights, he said: "I find the comments made about pregnant foxes come ill *from the party opposite,* which votes one week to protect the fox, and to kill babies the next week."

He added: "In a civilised society, you do allow people to do things which you don't approve of yourself."

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Hoey and Widdecombe defy convention

BY POLLY NEWTON
POLITICAL REPORTER

TWO of Parliament's most independent-minded women, Ann Widdecombe and Kate Hoey, risked the wrath of party colleagues with impassioned speeches from unexpected sides of the hunting debate.

Miss Widdecombe, Conservative MP for Maidstone and The Weald, delighted Labour backbenchers with a vigorous *attack on hunting with hounds*, after Ms Hoey, Labour MP for Vauxhall, won the respect of many Tories for her eloquent opposition to a ban. The clash defied conventional wisdom about the politics of hunting and showed the strength of feeling on both sides.

Ms Hoey told the House the sad tale of two guinea pigs which had been killed by a fox two nights ago barely a mile from Westminster. Ms Hoey, who was born on a small farm and brought up in the country, *said she had never hunted* "but I do understand the reasons for it and the benefits it can bring to rural communities".

She was a supporter of animal welfare, she said, but "I have a very vivid memory of the sight early one morning in the fields of a sea of white feathers all over the grass — the result of a fox excursion into the chicken house — not just one to eat but every single one routed and killed. So don't give me any more romantic *ideas of the pretty little innocent foxes.* They are pests and they need to be controlled."

She said that many woods and hedgerows would be destroyed were hunting banned. Farmers would put up barbed wire to divide fields because it was the cheapest option.

Ms Hoey had Tory MPs roaring with approval when she said: "I cannot understand why a country that prides itself on its pluralism and tolerance ... can be so prejudiced *against its rural inhabitants.*"

Miss Widdecombe, the former Prisons Minister, enhanced her reputation as a skilled Commons performer and formidable opponent with a speech that brought applause from the Labour benches and a rebuke from the Deputy Speaker for those MPs who had dared to clap in the Chamber.

When pro-hunt MPs laughed, as she spoke of the terror of the pursued animal, she said: "*They laugh at it. The deer* when it is running, when it can feel the hounds closing in, when it knows its strength is not going to last — that is uproariously *funny.*

"Why don't those who actually are in favour of this Bill take a trip to Kenya, stand in a lion reserve, unprotected, and see if they enjoy the hunt. I might enjoy watching it."

Conceding that foxes could be cruel, she asked: "Does that mean we take our standards *from the fox? Is that the proposition?* That because the fox eats a couple of guinea pigs in a very nasty way, we take our standards from the fox? I find it an amazing proposition."

The fundamental question was simple, she said. "Is *hunting so wrong that* we wish to abolish it? If it is, all else flows from that — we don't need to be concerned about liberties to do wrong."

Addressing the argument that a hunting ban would cost thousands of jobs, she remarked: "*If you abolish crime,* you will put all the police out of work. If we abolish ill-health, we will put all the nurses and doctors out of work. Is anybody seriously saying that we must preserve at all costs crime and ill-health *because they keep people in* jobs?"

She concluded: "Prolongation of terror is wrong. Those who practise it, when there are alternatives which are already widely practised, do wrong. Yes, the scenes of a hunt are *splendid — so splendid that* they are all over my dining-room curtains — but they are powerful scenes of old England — and in old England, not in modern Britain, they belong."

ROBIN MAYES

Hester Cooper with the body of Tufty, killed by a fox

Martyrs' death for guinea pigs

BY PAUL WHITTAKER

***HESTER COOPER'S** pet guinea* **pigs — slaughtered by a fox within a bugle call of the Houses of Parliament three days ago — became the unlikely martyrs of pro-hunt campaigners during the Commons debate yesterday.**

Members who voted for the ban were made to feel they had the blood of Surprise, a smooth white two-year-old, and Tufty, nine months and furry ***black,*** **on their hands as Kate Hoey, a rare animal indeed as one of the few Labour MPs to oppose the Bill to ban foxhunting, informed the House of their untimely deaths** ***on*** **Wednesday afternoon in her constituency of Vauxhall across the river in South London.**

Hester, 11, was mourning the loss of her two favourite pets yesterday. "It's very upsetting," she said. "I lost another guinea pig three years ago to a fox."

Hester, a student at St Paul's Girls' School, Hammersmith, said ***she was glad the matter had been*** **raised in Parliament and hoped her pets' deaths would not be in vain.**

"People should know that, even if they do ban hunting, it will ***not*** **stop the foxes in London," she said.**

Surprise, left, and Tufty in their hutch in the Coopers' garden

"They are ***not killed here*** **but captured and released in the country, where they can cause harm to other animals such as newborn lambs."**

Hester's sister, Daisy, 14, discovered the bodies after returning home from school. Although no one saw the culprit, their mother, Janet, said she knew that a fox was to blame: "Their smell is ***everywhere."***

The family's hounds — well, three pet dogs — were locked up at the time and unable to fend off the attacker, who got into the guinea ***pigs'*** **cage, biting the neck of one. Today Hester will bury Surprise in the back** ***garden where he once*** **roamed with Tufty, whose remains have not been found.**

Mrs Cooper, who has lived in Vauxhall for 22 years, said that foxes were becoming a menace in the area after killing many pets and digging up the gardens of residents.

"An old lady around the corner found a fox in her bedroom after it ***came in through the cat door,"*** **she said. "It did a mess in her bedroom and another in the kitchen. Their mess is very, very smelly.**

"We regularly see foxes running up and down our gardens and digging up plants. It is very upsetting. We have regular meetings to discuss the fox problem."

Mrs Cooper, who said that her **husband and children had taken part in foxhunts, accused Michael Foster, MP for Worcester, sponsor of the Private Member's Bill to ban hunting with dogs, of conducting a publicity stunt.**

"We have a very urban Parliament. I'm sure Mr Foster wouldn't mind if it were rats were being chased by dogs, because they aren't quite as cute as foxes," she said.

Mrs Cooper, a mother of three, added that she believed foxhunting was the most humane way of controlling foxes. "The hounds will ***either kill them or they won't.*** **They are not wounded. The trouble with foxes in towns is that their** ***only*** **predator is man, and nobody will kill them. They are very effective breeders, having two to three cubs a year.**

"I believe in the balance of nature. I don't think foxes should be made extinct, but they need to be controlled, not only in the country ***but also here in the city."***

Hester said she did not attend hunts for the fun of killing a fox, but because she enjoyed riding her horse and seeing the countryside. "The fox dies within three seconds," she said.

How the world has outfoxed Britain

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS AND ROGER BOYES IN BONN

BRITAIN appears alone in seeking to abandon the ancient hunting ritual with its hunting pink and packs of hounds.

The French are wildly enthusiastic, America can muster a surprising 163 packs of hounds and there are 23 packs *in Australia and 13 in Canada.* South Africa has two packs and Kenya and India one each.

Killing animals for sport in France is a right enshrined in the Revolution, a pastime to which artistocrats and peasants are equally wedded. It is tradition that politicians tamper with at their peril.

There are 1.5 million hunt enthusiasts of all types in France, more than any other European country and almost three times as many as in *Britain. In France almost anything* that flies, runs, hops or swims is hunted and — almost always — consumed in a heavy sauce.

In a *recent* study, sociologists Michel and Monique Pinçon found that French stag hunters, numbering some 60,000 in total, included "dukes and bankers along with street sweepers and postal workers". Fully 50,000 French people turn out to watch and applaud the hunt at least once a year, but never climb on a horse themselves.

The Pinçons' three-year study concluded that hunting has never been more popular in France.

The French routinely defy EU regulations on when and what to hunt, and any attempts to restrict hunting, however tentative, have been met with strenuous and vocal opposition as an assault on French rural tradition.

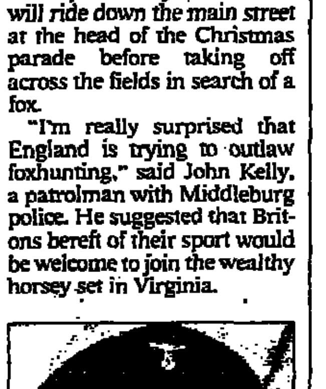
In Germany, hunting on horseback is rare and the sport is confined to the killing of animals with guns. About 8,000 people a year pass the hunting examination. Candidates must know about animal biology, the different woodland species, trees, animal excrement, how to keep a gun clean, read tracks, gun law and environmental policies. Some hunting songs also have to be memorised.

The average annual bag is one million roe deer, 330,000 wild boar, 66,000 red deer, 35,000 fallow deer. Tens of *thousands of foxes are killed* but exact numbers not available.

Among the most famous German hunt enthusiasts was Hermann Goering, who burnt down 100 Polish villages to make a nicely sized hunting terrain in the Bialowice forests. Goering's last bag, on his German estate, was four bison, *shot* in April 1945 as the Russians were moving into Berlin.

Foxhunting in the full English tradition still flourishes in northern *Virginia. Next Saturday* in the small town of Middleburg, the local hunt, resplendent in scarlet and accompanied by foxhounds, *will ride down the main street* at the head of the Christmas parade before taking off across the fields in search of a fox.

"I'm really surprised that England is trying to outlaw foxhunting," said John Kelly, a patrolman with Middleburg police. He suggested that Britons bereft of their sport would be welcome to join the wealthy horsey set in Virginia.


Goering burnt down 100 villages for hunting

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هكذا من الأصل

Prior engagements keep half cabinet from House

By Nicholas Watt

TONY BLAIR and four of his most senior colleagues headed a list of ten Cabinet ministers prevented from voting by "long-standing engagements" (Nicholas Watt writes).

They comprise half the Cabinet members who sit in the Commons. The Prime Minister, who is in favour of the ban, was in Bosnia. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, was in Australia before the Kyoto environment conference. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, was in Poland. Gordon Brown had wanted to vote in favour of the ban, but rushed off to his East Dunfermline constituency to try to save a high-tech investment in the town. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, was in his Blackburn constituency.

Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, was in Nottingham and Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, was in Scotland. David Blunket, the Education Secretary, was in his Sheffield constituency. Clare Short was in Brussels and Frank Dobson was in Plymouth.

MPS WHO DID NOT VOTE

LABOUR: T Blair (Sedgefield), D Blunkett (Sheffield Brightside), G Brown (Dunfermline E), T Clarke (Coatbridge and Chryston), H Cohen (Leyton and Wanstead), R Cook (Livingston), J Cummings (Easington), J Cunningham (Copeland), T Dalyell (Linlithgow), D Dewar (Glasgow Anniesland), F Dobson (Holborn and St Pancras), F Doran (Aberdeen Central), G Dunwoody (Crewe and Nantwich), F Field (Birkenhead), S Galbraith (Strathkelvin and Bearsden), B George (Walsall S), T Graham (Renfrewshire W), N Griffiths (Edinburgh S), A Ingram (East Kilbride), P Kilfoyle (Liverpool Walton), H Liddell (Airdrie and Shotts), T Lloyd (Manchester Central), R McKenna (Cumbernauld and Kilsyth), H McLeish (Fife Central), P Mandelson (Hartlepool), D Marshall (Glasgow Shettleston), A Miller (Ellesmere Port and Neston), A Mitchell (Great Grimsby), J Morris (Aberavon), K Mountford (Colne Valley), J Prescott (Hull E), K Purchase (Wolverhampton NE), J Reid (Hamilton N and Bellshill), C Short (Birmingham Ladywood), A Smith (Oxford E), P Snape (West Bromwich E), J Straw (Blackburn), B Wilson (Cunninghame N), R Winterton (Doncaster Central), T Worthington (Clydebank and Milngavie).

CONSERVATIVE: T Baldry (Banbury), P Bottomley (Worthing W), V Bottomley (Surrey SW), J Butterfill (Bournemouth W), S Chapman (Chipping Barnet), A Clark (Kensington and Chelsea), M Clark (Rayleigh), M Colvin (Romsey), M Fabricant (Lichfield), M Fallon (Sevenoaks), L Fox (Woodspring), T Gorman (Billericay), N Hawkins (Surrey Heath), Sir E Heath (Old Bexley and Sidcup), J Horam (Orpington), J Lait (Beckenham), Sir P Lloyd (Fareham), J Major (Huntingdon), H Malins (Woking), M Mates (Hampshire E), M Roe (Broxbourne), R Shepherd (Aldridge-Brownhills), C Spelman (Meriden), Sir J Stanley (Tonbridge and Malling), N Waterson (Eastbourne), T Yeo (Suffolk S).

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT: P Ashdown (Yeovil), P Brand (Isle of Wight), C Breed (Cornwall SE), D Heath (Somerton and Frome), Ray Michie (Argyll and Bute).

MINOR PARTIES: R Cunningham (SNP Perth), M Ewing (SNP Moray), C Forsythe (UUP Antrim S), J Hume (SDLP Foyle), E Llwyd (PC, Meirionnydd Nant Conwy), R McCartney (UK Unionist Down N), E McGrady (SDLP Down S), K Maginnis (UUP Fermanagh and S Tyrone), S Mallon (SDLP Newry and Armagh), I Paisley (DUP Antrim N), P Robinson (DUP Belfast E), M Smyth (UUP Belfast S), J Taylor (UUP Strangford), C Walker (UUP Belfast N), D Wigley (PC, Caernarfon).

MPS WHO VOTED FOR THE BAN

LABOUR: D Abbott (Hackney N and Stoke Newington), I Adams (Paisley N), N Ainger (Carmarthen W and Pembrokeshire S), R Ainsworth (Coventry NE), D Alexander (Paisley S), G Allen (Nottingham N), D Anderson (Swansea E), J Anderson (Rossendale and Darwen), H Armstrong (Durham NW), J Ashton (Bassetlaw), C Atherton (Falmouth & Camborne), C Atkins (Staffordshire Moorlands), J Austin (Erith and Thamesmead), T Banks (West Ham), H Barnes (Derbyshire NE), K Barron (Rother Valley), J Battle (Leeds W), H Bayley (York City), N Beard (Bexleyheath & Crayford), M Beckett (Derby S), A Begg (Aberdeen S), S Bell (Middlesbrough), T Benn (Chesterfield), A Bennett (Denton and Reddish), G Bermingham (St Helens S), R Berry (Kingswood), H Best (Leeds NW), C Betts (Sheffield Attercliffe), E Blackman (Erewash), Hazel Blears (Salford), R Blizzard (Waveney), P Boateng (Brent S), D Borrow (Ribble S), K Bradley (Manchester Withington), P Bradley (The Wrekin), B Bradshaw (Exeter), H Brinton (Peterborough), N Brown (Newcastle Upon Tyne E and Wallsend), R Brown (Dumfries), D Browne (Kilmarnock and Loudoun), K Buck (Regent's Park and Kensington N), R Burden (Birmingham Northfield), C Burgon (Elmet), C Butler (Castle Point), S Byers (Tyneside N), R Caborn (Sheffield Central), A Campbell (Tynemouth), A Campbell (Cambridge), R Campbell (Blyth Valley), D Campbell-Savours (Workington), D Canavan (Falkirk W), J Cann (Ipswich), I Caplin (Hove), R Casale (Wimbledon), M Caton (Gower), I Cawsey (Brigg and Goole), B Chapman (Wirral S), D Chaytor (Bury North), M Chisholm (Edinburgh N and Leith), J Church (Dagenham), M Clapham (Barnsley W and Penistone), D Clark (South Shields), L Clark (Edinburgh Pentlands), P Clark (Gillingham), C Clarke (Norwich S), E Clarke (Midlothian), T Clarke (Northampton S), D Clelland (Tyne Bridge), A Clwyd (Cynon Valley), V Coaker (Gedling), A Coffey (Stockport), I Coleman (Hammersmith and Fulham), A Colman (Putney), M Connarty (Falkirk E), F Cook (Stockton N), Y Cooper (Pontefract and Castleford), R Corbett (Birmingham Erdington), J Corbyn (Islington N), J Corston (Bristol E), J Cousins (Newcastle Upon Tyne Central), T Cox (Tooting), R Cranston (Dudley N), D Crausby (Bolton NE), A Cryer (Keighley), J Cryer (Hornchurch), L Cunliffe (Leigh), J Cunningham (Coventry South), C Curtis-Thomas (Crosby), A Darling (Edinburgh Central), K Darvill (Upminster), V Davey (Bristol West), I Davidson (Glasgow Pollock), D Davies (Llanelli), G Davies (Croydon Central), R Davies (Caerphilly), T Davis (Birmingham Hodge Hill), H Dawson (Lancaster and Wyre), J Dean (Burton), J Denham (Southampton Itchen), A Dismore (Hendon), J Dobbin (Heywood and Middleton), B Donohoe (Cunninghame S), J Dowd (Lewisham W), D Drew (Stroud), J Drown (Swindon S), A Eagle (Wallasey), M Eagle (Liverpool Garston), H Edwards (Monmouth), C Efford (Eltham), L Ellman (Liverpool Riverside), J Ennis (Barnsley E and Mexborough), W Etherington (Sunderland N), M Fisher (Stoke Central), J Fitzpatrick (Poplar and Canning Town), L Fitzsimons (Rochdale), C Flint (Don Valley), P Flynn (Newport W), B Follett (Stevenage), D Foster (Bishop Auckland), M Foster (Hastings and Rye), M Foster (Worcester), G Foulkes (Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley), M Fyfe (Glasgow Maryhill), G Galloway (Glasgow Kelvin), M Gapes (Ilford S), B Gardiner (Brent N), N Gerrard (Walthamstow), I Gibson (Norwich N), L Gilroy (Plymouth Sutton), N Godman (Greenock and Inverclyde), R Godsiff (Birmingham Sparkbrook and Small Heath), P Goggins (Wythenshawe and Sale E) E Gordon (Romford), B Grant (Tottenham), J Griffiths (Reading E), W Griffiths (Bridgend), B Grocott (Telford), J Grogan (Selby), J Gunnell (Morley and Rothwell), P Hain (Neath), M Hall (Weaver Vale), P Hall (Bedford), F Hamilton (Leeds NE), D Hanson (Delyn), H Harman (Camberwell and Peckham), S Heal (Halesowen and Rowley Regis), J Healey (Wentworth), D Henderson (Newcastle Upon Tyne N), I Henderson (Harwich), S Hepburn (Jarrow), J Heppell (Nottingham E), S Hesford (Wirral W), P Hewitt (Leicester W), K Hill (Streatham), D Hinchliffe (Wakefield), M Hodge (Barking), J Home Robertson (East Lothian), J Hood (Clydesdale), G Hoon (Ashfield), P Hope (Corby), K Hopkins (Luton N), A Howarth (Newport E), G Howarth (Knowsley N and Sefton E), K Howells (Pontypridd), L Hoyle (Chorley), B Hughes (Stretford and Urmston), K Hughes (Doncaster N), J Humble (Blackpool N and Fleetwood), A Hurst (Braintree), J Hutton (Barrow and Furness), B Iddon (Bolton SE), E Illsley (Barnsley Central), G Jackson (Hampstead and Highgate), H Jackson (Sheffield Hillsborough), D Jamieson (Plymouth Devonport), B Jenkins (Tamworth), A Johnson (Hull W & Hessle), M Johnson (Welwyn Hatfield), B Jones (Alyn and Deeside), F Jones (Newark), H Jones (Warrington N), J Jones (Wolverhampton SW), J Owen Jones (Cardiff Central), L Jones (Birmingham Selly Oak), M Jones (Clwyd S), T Jowell (Dulwich and West Norwood), G Kaufman (Manchester Gorton), S Keeble (Northampton N), A Keen (Feltham and Heston), A Keen (Brentford and Isleworth), R Kelly (Bolton W), F Kemp (Houghton and Washington E), J Kennedy (Liverpool Wavertree), P Khabra (Ealing Southall), D Kidney (Stafford), A King (Rugby and Kenilworth), O King (Bethnal Green and Bow), T Kingham (Gloucester), A Kumar (Middlesbrough S and Cleveland E), S Ladyman (Thanet S), J Lawrence (Preseli Pembrokeshire), B Laxton (Derby N), D Lepper (Brighton Pavilion), C Leslie (Shipley), T Levitt (High Peak), I Lewis (Bury S), T Lewis (Worsley), M Linton (Battersea), K Livingstone (Brent E), D Lock (Wyre Forest), A Love (Edmonton), J McAllion (Dundee E), T McAvoy (Glasgow Rutherglen), S McCabe (Birmingham Hall Green), C McCafferty (Calder Valley), I McCartney (Makerfield), S McDonagh (Mitcham and Morden), C Macdonald (Western Isles), J McDonnell (Hayes and Harlington), J McFall (Dumbarton), A McGuire (Stirling), Shona McIsaac (Cleethorpes), A Mackinlay (Thurrock), K McNamara (Hull N), T McNulty (Harrow E), D MacShane (Rotherham), F MacTaggart (Slough), T McWalter (Hemel Hempstead), J McWilliam (Blaydon), A Mahon (Halifax), J Mallaber (Amber Valley), J Marek (Wrexham), G Marsden (Blackpool S), P Marsden (Shrewsbury and Atcham), J Marshall (Leicester S), R Marshall-Andrews (Medway), E Martlew (Carlisle), J Maxton (Glasgow Cathcart), M Meacher (Oldham W and Royton), A Meale (Mansfield), G Merron (Lincoln), A Michael (Cardiff S and Penarth), B Michie (Sheffield Heeley), A Milburn (Darlington), L Moffatt (Crawley), L Moonie (Kirkcaldy), M Moran (Luton S), J Morgan (Cardiff N), R Morgan (Cardiff W), E Morley (Scunthorpe), E Morris (Birmingham Yardley), M Mowlam (Redcar), G Mudie (Leeds E), C Mullin (Sunderland S), D Murphy (Wansbeck), J Murphy (Eastwood), P Murphy (Torfaen), D Naysmith (Bristol NW), D Norris (Wansdyke), M O'Brien (Warwickshire N), W O'Brien (Normanton), E O'Hara (Knowsley S), B Olner (Nuneaton), M O'Neill (Ochil), D Organ (Forest of Dean), S Osborne (Ayr), N Palmer (Broxtowe), I Pearson (Dudley S), T Pendry (Stalybridge and Hyde), L Perham (Ilford N), C Pickthall (Lancashire W), P Pike (Burnley), J Plaskitt (Warwick and Leamington), K Pollard (St Albans), C Pond (Gravesham), G Pope (Hyndburn), S Pound (Ealing N), R Powell (Ogmore), B Prentice (Lewisham E), G Prentice (Pendle), D Primarolo (Bristol S), G Prosser (Dover), J Quin (Gateshead E and Washington W), L Quinn (Scarborough and Whitby), G Radice (Durham N), B Rammell (Harlow), S Rapson (Portsmouth N), N Raynsford (Greenwich and Woolwich), A Reed (Loughborough), G Robertson (Hamilton S), G Robinson (Coventry NW), B Roche (Hornsey and Wood Green), A Rogers (Rhondda), J Rooker (Birmingham Perry Barr), T Rooney (Bradford N), E Ross (Dundee W), T Rowlands (Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney), F Roy (Motherwell and Wishaw), C Ruane (Vale of Clwyd), J Ruddock (Lewisham Deptford), C Russell (Chester City), J Ryan (Enfield N), M Salter (Reading W), M Sarwar (Glasgow Govan), M Savidge (Aberdeen N), P Sawford (Kettering), B Sedgemore (Hackney S and Shoreditch), J Shaw (Chatham and Aylesford), B Sheerman (Huddersfield), R Sheldon (Ashton-under-Lyne), D Shipley (Stourbridge), A Simpson (Nottingham S), M Singh (Bradford W), D Skinner (Bolsover), A Smith (Basildon), C Smith (Islington S and Finsbury), G Smith (Morecambe and Lunesdale), J Smith (Redditch), J Smith (Vale of Glamorgan), L Smith (Blaenau Gwent), C Soley (Ealing Acton and Shepherds Bush), H Southworth (Warrington S), J Spellar (Warley), R Squire (Dunfermline W), P Starkey (Milton Keynes SW), G Steinberg (Durham City), G Stevenson (Stoke S), D Stewart (Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber), I Stewart (Eccles), P Stinchcombe (Wellingborough), H Stoate (Dartford), R Stott (Wigan), G Strang (Edinburgh E and Musselburgh), G Stringer (Manchester Blackley), G Stuart (Birmingham Edgbaston), G Sutcliffe (Bradford S), A Taylor (Dewsbury), D Taylor (Stockton Sh), D Taylor (Leicestershire NW), G Thomas (Harrow W), G Thomas (Clwyd W), S Timms (East Ham), P Tipping (Sherwood), M Todd (Derbyshire S), D Touhig (Islwyn), J Trickett (Hemsworth), P Truswell (Pudsey), D Turner (Brighton Kemptown), G Turner (Norfolk NW), D Twigg (Halton), S Twigg (Enfield Southgate), K Vaz (Leicester E), R Vis (Finchley and Golders Green), J Walley (Stoke N), C Ward (Watford), R Wareing (Liverpool West Derby), D Watts (St Helens N), B White (Milton Keynes NE), A Whitehead (Southampton Test), M Wicks (Croydon N), A Williams (Swansea W), A Williams (Carmarthen E and Dinefwr), B Williams (Conwy), M Wills (Swindon N), D Winnick (Walsall N), A Wise (Preston), M Wood (Batley and Spen), P Woolas (Oldham East and Saddleworth), J Wray (Glasgow Baillieston), T Wright (Cannock Chase), T Wright (Great Yarmouth), D Wyatt (Sittingbourne and Sheppey).

CONSERVATIVE: D Amess (Southend W), D Atkinson (Bournemouth E), S Day (Cheadle), R Gale (Thanet N), J Randall (Uxbridge), T Taylor (Rochford and Southend E), A Widdecombe (Maidstone and the Weald), J Taylor (Solihull).

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT: R Allan (Sheffield Hallam), N Baker (Lewes), J Ballard (Taunton), T Brake (Carshalton and Wallington), P Burstow (Sutton and Cheam), V Cable (Twickenham), D Chidgey (Eastleigh), B Cotter (Weston-super-Mare), E Davey (Kingston and Surbiton), R Fearn (Southport), D Foster (Bath), A George (St Ives), D Gorrie (Edinburgh W), M Hancock (Portsmouth S), E Harris (Oxford W and Abingdon), S Hughes (Southwark N and Bermondsey), N Jones (Cheltenham), C Kennedy (Ross, Skye and Inverness W), R Maclennan (Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross), D Rendel (Newbury), B Russell (Colchester), A Sanders (Torbay), A Stunell (Hazel Grove), M Taylor (Truro and St Austell), J Tonge (Richmond Park), S Webb (Northavon), P Willis (Harrogate and Knaresborough).

MINOR PARTIES: A Morgan (SNP Galloway and Upper Nithsdale), A Salmond (SNP Banff and Buchan), J Swinney (SNP Tayside N), A Welsh (SNP Angus E).

THE VOTES AGAINST

CONSERVATIVE: P Ainsworth (Surrey E), M Ancram (Devizes), J Arbuthnot (Hampshire NE), J Bercow (Buckingham), Sir P Beresford (Mole Valley), C Blunt (Reigate), Sir R Body (Boston and Skegness), T Boswell (Daventry), G Brady (Altrincham and Sale W), J Brazier (Canterbury), P Brooke (Cities of London and Westminster), A Browning (Tiverton and Honiton), I Bruce (Dorset S), S Burns (Chelmsford W), W Cash (Stone), C Chope (Christchurch), J Clappison (Hertsmere), K Clarke (Rushcliffe), T Collins (Westmorland and Lonsdale), Sir P Cormack (Staffordshire S), J Cran (Beverley and Holderness), D Curry (Skipton and Ripon), Q Davies (Grantham and Stamford), D Davis (Haltemprice and Howden), S Dorrell (Charnwood), A Duncan (Rutland and Melton), I Duncan-Smith (Chingford and Woodford Green), Sir P Emery (Devon East), N Evans (Ribble Valley), D Faber (Westbury), H Flight (Arundel and South Downs), E Forth (Bromley and Chislehurst), Sir N Fowler (Sutton Coldfield), C Fraser (Dorset Mid and Poole N), E Garnier (Harborough), N Gibb (Bognor Regis and Littlehampton), C Gill (Ludlow), C Gillan (Chesham and Amersham), Sir A Goodlad (Eddisbury), J Gray (Wiltshire N), D Green (Ashford), J Greenway (Ryedale), D Grieve (Beaconsfield), J Gummer (Suffolk Coastal), W Hague (Richmond, Yorks), Sir A Hamilton (Epsom and Ewell), P Hammond (Runnymede and Weybridge), J Hayes (South Holland and The Deepings), O Heald (Hertfordshire NE), D Heathcoat-Amory (Wells), M Heseltine (Henley), D Hogg (Sleaford and North Hykeham), M Howard (Folkestone and Hythe), G Howarth (Aldershot), A Hunter (Basingstoke), M Jack (Fylde), R Jackson (Wantage), B Jenkin (Essex N), Sir G Johnson Smith (Wealden), R Key (Salisbury), T King (Bridgwater), J Kirkbride (Bromsgrove), E Laing (Epping Forest), A Lansley (Cambridgeshire S), E Leigh (Gainsborough), O Letwin (Dorset W), J Lewis (New Forest E), D Lidington (Aylesbury), P Lilley (Hitchin and Harpenden), T Loughton (Worthing E and Shoreham), P Luff (Worcestershire Mid), Sir N Lyell (Bedfordshire NE), J MacGregor (Norfolk S), A McIntosh (Vale of York), A MacKay (Bracknell), D Maclean (Penrith and the Border), P McLoughlin (Derbyshire W), Sir D Madel (Bedfordshire SW), J Maples (Stratford-on-Avon), F Maude (Horsham), Sir B Mawhinney (Cambridgeshire NW), T May (Maidenhead), M Moss (Cambridgeshire NE), P Nicholls (Teignbridge), A Norman (Tunbridge Wells), R Ottaway (Croydon S), R Page (Hertfordshire SW), J Paice (Cambridgeshire SE), O Paterson (Shropshire N), E Pickles (Brentwood and Ongar), D Prior (Norfolk N), J Redwood (Wokingham), A Robathan (Blaby), L Robertson (Tewkesbury), A Rowe (Kent Mid and Faversham), D Ruffley (Bury St Edmunds), J Sayeed (Bedfordshire Mid), G Shephard (Norfolk SW), K Simpson (Norfolk Mid), N Soames (Sussex Mid), Sir M Spicer (Worcestershire W), R Spring (Suffolk W), N St Aubyn (Guildford), Sir A Steen (Totnes), G Streeter (Devon SW), D Swayne (New Forest W), R Syms (Poole), Sir P Tapsell (Louth and Horncastle), I Taylor (Esher and Walton), J Townend (Yorkshire E), D Tredinnick (Bosworth), M Trend (Windsor), A Tyrie (Chichester), P Viggers (Gosport), R Walter (Dorset N), C Wardle (Bexhill and Battle), B Wells (Hertford and Stortford), R Whitney (Wycombe), J Whittingdale (Maldon and Chelmsford E), J Wilkinson (Ruislip-Northwood), D Willetts (Havant), D Wilshire (Spelthorne), A Winterton (Congleton), N Winterton (Macclesfield), S Woodward (Witney), Sir G Young (Hampshire NW).

LABOUR: L Golding (Newcastle-under-Lyme), K Hoey (Vauxhall).

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT: A Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed), M Bruce (Gordon), J Burnett (Devon W and Torridge), M Campbell (Fife NE), N Harvey (Devon N), P Keetch (Hereford), A Kirkwood (Roxburgh and Berwickshire), R Livsey (Brecon and Radnorshire), M Moore (Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale), M Oaten (Winchester), L Opik (Montgomeryshire), Sir R Smith (Aberdeenshire W and Kincardine), P Tyler (Cornwall N), J Wallace (Orkney and Shetland).

MINOR PARTIES: R Beggs (UUP Antrim E), M Bell (Ind Tatton), C Dafis (PC Ceredigion), J Donaldson (UUP Lagan Valley), I Wyn Jones (PC Ynys Mon), W Ross (UUP Londonderry E), P Temple-Morris (Ind Leominster), W Thompson (UUP Tyrone W), D Trimble (UUP Upper Bann).

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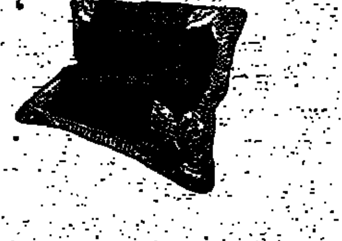

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Gifts for Sandhurst staff investigated

NCOs have been suspended after an Arab officer cadet complained his presents failed to induce instructors to pass him, **Michael Evans** reports

THREE senior NCOs who have been suspended during an investigation at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, are alleged to have received gifts from foreign students that breached a limit of £50. The gifts are said to have included Rolex watches and cash.

Seven NCOs are under investigation; the four others are continuing with their jobs *at the Army's teaching college.* If the allegations against them are proved, they are likely to face disciplinary action.

The investigation follows a complaint by an officer cadet from an Arab royal family. He made it clear that he had handed over gifts on his personal understanding that they would persuade his NCO instructors to ensure that he passed out with good grades.

The Royal Military Police Special Investigations Branch was brought in when the cadet, *believed to be from a* Gulf state, was told he had failed and would not be able to pass out at the Sovereign's Parade.

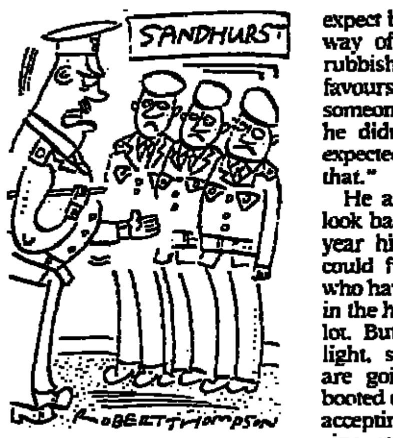
Ten per cent of the officer cadets who take part in the parade at three ceremonies a year come from overseas, many of them from Middle Eastern countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

It is a tradition in that part of the world, and in Africa, for royal families and other ruling elites to send their sons to Sandhurst. It is also a tradition, as part of their culture, to offer gifts as a mark of thanks to individual NCO instructors once they have completed their course.

Famous foreigners trained at Sandhurst include kings, princes, coup leaders and wealthy civilians. Among the latter was Dodi Fayed, son of the Harrods owner and friend of Diana, Princess of Wales. *Mr Fayed passed out from* Sandhurst in 1974.

Denaro: Commandant for the past six weeks

The academy, whose Commandant for the past six weeks has been Major-General Arthur Denaro, a former SAS officer who commanded the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars in the Gulf War, is acutely aware of the gift-giving tradition and sets down strict rules about the conditions under which presents can be accepted. They state that while it is not prohibited to receive small gifts by way of thanks, anything that has a value of more than £50 has to be declared and retained by the Ministry of Defence.



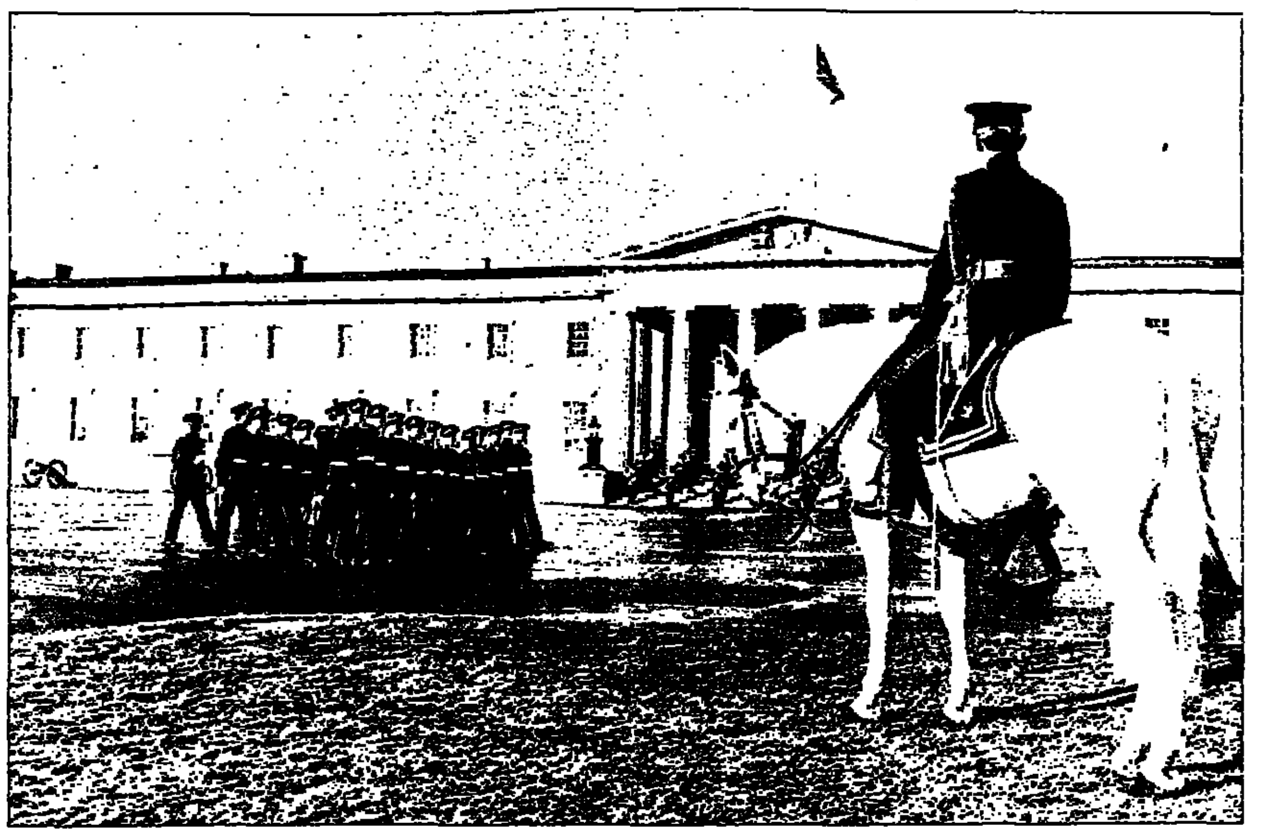
Present .... chocolates!!

Although the allegations against the NCOs are being treated seriously — the three suspended are believed to be colour sergeants — it is accept*ed that an inadequate student* who believes he can bribe his way into passing out at the Sovereign's Parade is deceiving himself.

One of the accused NCOs said: "It is no different to giving tips in a restaurant or bunging the binman or postman at Christmas. You don't expect better service, it's just a way of saying thanks. It is rubbish to say we were selling favours. The very fact that someone has complained that he didn't get the grades he expected is surely proof of that."

He added: "If you were to look back at the college's 200-year history, I am sure you could find lots of aristocrats who have splashed cash about in the hope of improving their lot. But now it has come to light, some good instructors are going to end up being booted out of the Army just for accepting the gratitude of foreign students who can well afford it."

As a result of the military police investigation, several students from Arab countries *who had passed out* were interviewed. They disclosed that they had handed over gifts and the homes of all seven NCOs were searched. Army sources denied reports that the gifts involved cars or anything of such substantial value.



Ten per cent of the officer cadets passing out at the Sovereign's Parade at Sandhurst are from foreign countries

They also said that when Arab students offered gifts of thanks, it was a matter of judgment whether it was appropriate to accept them. If they were small items, it would not be frowned upon. Any gift such as a gold watch or cash would be a different matter. The last passing out parade was on August 11, when Field Marshal Lord Bramall, former Chief of the Defence Staff, represented the Queen. Twenty-five overseas students passed out with a view to being commissioned in the armed forces of their countries. They included Sheikh Salman Abdullah al Khalifa from Bahrain, Saleh Ghalib al Quaiti from Saudi Arabia, Salem Abdullah al Dahmani from the United Arab Emirates, and Mohammed Ali Jaber al Marri from Qatar.

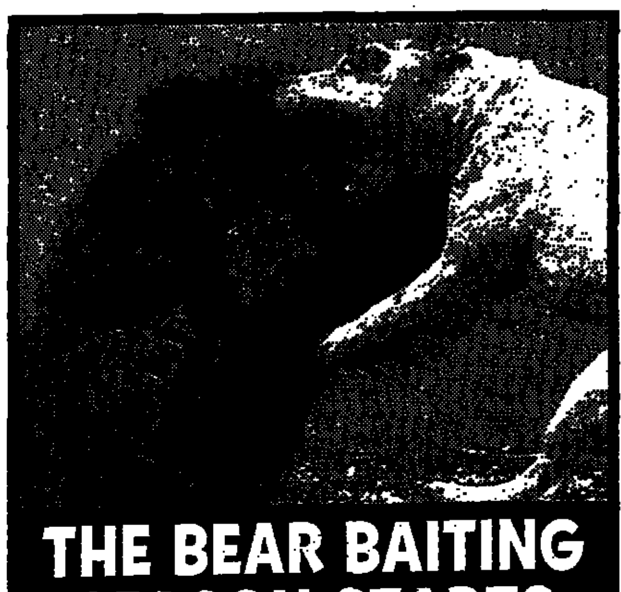
The next parade will be on December 12, when between 200 and 250 officer cadets will pass out, and again about 10 per cent of them will be from overseas. At any one time there are about 800 students at the academy and the permanent staff consists of 50 officers and 80 NCOs.

British soldiers damaged hotel

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

TWO British soldiers who had been absent without leave since October will be sentenced next week for causing £2,000 damage to a five-star hotel in Cyprus.

Another British soldier is to be sentenced for a spate of burglaries on the island. A fourth, who has been absent without leave since May, is wanted in connection with the burglaries. All four were serving with the 1st Battalion King's Regiment. After drinking in several pubs, Privates Carl Townes and Philip Hughes, both 19, broke into the accounts office of the Palm Beach Hotel and caused the damage, a court in Larnaca heard yesterday. Both had pleaded guilty. In a separate case, Private Keith Hollywood, 23, pleaded guilty to four burglaries.



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THE VOTES AGAINST

"It was like finding some money down the back of the sofa."

هكذا من الاصل

Shades of yesteryear unearthed

Forest of Dean ochre miners are back in business, reports **Simon de Bruxelles**

JAY WILLIAMS

Ochre such as that mined by Jonathan Wright was used in Stone Age paintings. Modern examples, above, were produced on courses run by the Clearwell Caves museum

THREE hundred feet below ground, in the bowels of Britain's only ochre mine, a man with a pickaxe chips away at a deposit of rust-coloured mineral. A few handfuls of precious powder are placed in a sack and the miner crawls back towards daylight.

A revolution in DIY has created a demand for the pigment not seen since the Late Middle Ages as older homes are restored using the same techniques and materials with which they were built.

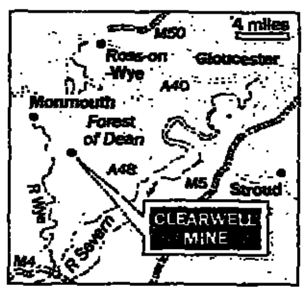
Several large paint manufacturers now boast "heritage" paints which claim to reproduce the colours of the past. The National Trust and the Victoria and Albert Museum have each given their imprimatur to rival ranges.

The resurgence of traditional painting techniques using naturally occuring materials coincides with the growing interest in the "period" end of the homes market reflected in television programmes such as *The House Detectives* and Channel 5's *Period Rooms*. The monthly magazine *Period Living* has increased its circulation 56 per cent year on year to more than 100,000. Amateur restorers are once again using distempers, lime washes and other materials.

They are reaping the benefit at the Clearwell Caves ochre mine near Coleford in Gloucestershire. The caves were reopened to the public 30 years ago as a museum, but the renewed demand for ochre means Clearwell is once again a working pit.

Ochre is an oxide of iron deposited millennia ago by mineral-rich waters percolating through the limestone caverns below the Forest of Dean. Its earthy palette ranges through browns and reds to yellow and deep purple and its use as a pigment is as old as art itself. Ochre coloured the Lascaux cave paintings and medieval church frescoes, decorated the homes of Iron Age farmers and was used in the burial rituals of Stone Age man.

Jonathan Wright, 37, is one of the Forest of Dean's few remaining Freeminers who,



for more than 700 years, have enjoyed the right to extract minerals including iron ore and coal. He said: "Demand has grown by more than 25 per cent in the past two years alone. People who have older houses want to use the old materials and modern paint ranges — even if they claim to be traditional colours — can't match it.

"Ochre is particularly appropriate to homes with a lot of wood and stone in them because it is a completely natural product. It is also completely harmless, both to people and the environment."

The mine produces just three or four tonnes of ochre a year, which is sold in 250ml jars at £10 each. Production is carefully paced, as no one knows how much more is down there.

Jane Knapp, an expert on decorative paint techniques who is working on the restoration of the banqueting hall at Longleat, Wiltshire, says her clients nearly all prefer traditional materials. She is often asked for lime washes and "size" — a glaze made with crystals from rabbit skin.

"You only have to look at the magazine rack in W.H. Smith to see that it's a rapidly expanding market. As we approach the millennium everyone is looking backwards. We seem desperate to hang on to the past," she added.

Patrick Batey, an authority on traditional painting materials and an adviser to English Heritage, says older-style materials may be more appropriate for period homes, particularly because they allow walls to "breathe", preventing damp, but they are not necessarily the easiest to use or the cheapest.

Britain is still a Christian nation insists Carey

By Ruth Gledhill, religion correspondent

THE Archbishop of Canterbury has criticised the view of Britain as a multi-faith society, insisting that the coronation service of the Prince of Wales will be Christian.

In a magazine interview, Dr George Carey says that British society is fundamentally Christian and any form of inter-faith worship is wrong.

Dr Carey's views are published in *Third Way*, a monthly evangelical Christian magazine. He also gave his view on abortion, saying that it is not always wrong.

Speaking to Huw Spanner, consulting editor of *Third Way*, Dr Carey says that British society is not pluralist. "We mustn't concede the game to being a multi-faith society. We are not. Other faiths comprise less than 10 per cent of the population. So, 90 per cent are still rooted in a Christian position."

He says he will not compromise on central Christian beliefs. "I do not agree with inter-faith worship. And other faiths don't like it either. You won't find a Muslim who would want it."

His comments challenge the views of the Prince, who has said that he wishes to be seen as "Defender of Faith" rather than "the Faith" when he succeeds the Queen to the throne and becomes Supreme Governor of the Church of England. Asked about the coronation, Dr Carey says: "It will inevitably be a Christian service."

He makes it clear that, in talking with people of other faiths, he does not stint on the biblical injunction to evangelise. "In my commitment to dialogue between the religions, I have been much up-front in emphasising the uniqueness of Christ," he says.

Dr Carey adds: "Inter-faith dialogue is important — do not minimise that. But I am unapologetic in my commitment to evangelism."

On abortion he says: "I, and most Anglicans, would go as far in being for life as I possibly can, but I can't say that abortion is always wrong. That is where the Anglican position takes us."

☐ The General Synod of the Church of England debated the plight of asylum-seekers yesterday. It expressed concern about last year's asylum and immigration Act, calling for a "fairer, firmer, faster" system.

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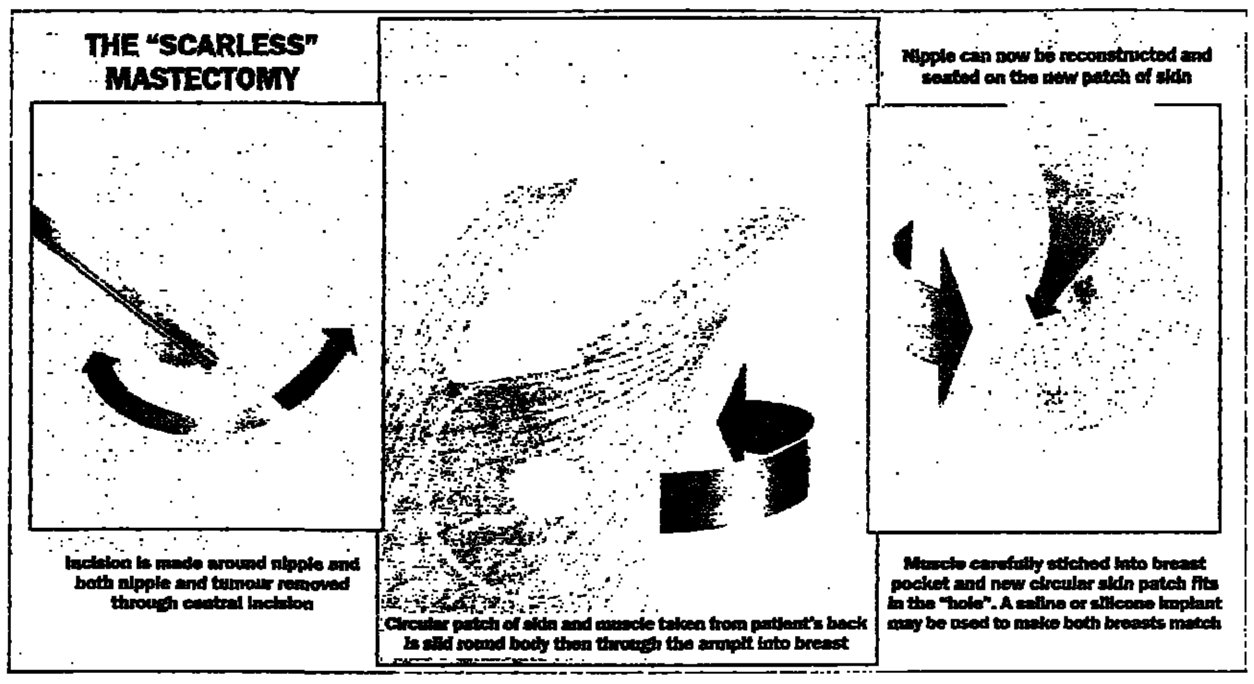
Scar-free breast surgery perfected

British team unveil breakthrough in keyhole technique that could benefit 6,000 women a year having mastectomies, reports **Ian Murray**


THE "SCARLESS" MASTECTOMY
Incision is made around nipple and both nipple and tumour removed through central incision
Circular patch of skin and muscle taken from patient's back is slid round body then through the armpit into breast
Nipple can now be reconstructed and seated on the new patch of skin
Muscle carefully stiched into breast pocket and new circular skin patch fits in the "hole". A saline or silicone implant may be used to make both breasts match

BRITISH surgeons have perfected a keyhole surgery technique which allows them to remove a breast tumour and rebuild the breast afterwards in one four-hour operation. After the wound heals it is almost impossible to tell the operation ever happened.

The technique has been developed by Richard Rainsbury, a senior tutor on advanced breast disease at the Royal College of Surgeons, and Paul Peyser, his colleague at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester. Their method was explained yesterday to a meeting of the British Association of Surgical Oncology.

The aim of the operation is to leave the patient's skin as undamaged as possible. An incision no more than about six centimetres long is made around the nipple and the tumour is removed through it.

This leaves the skin of the breast hanging empty. The surgeon then makes another incision in the patient's back, raising a flap along a line which will be covered by a bikini or bra strap. Through this he frees one of the four muscles which bring the arm down to the side.

The muscle is then slid around inside the body, rotated under the armpit and dropped into the empty breast, where it is sewn into place along with a little disc of skin to replace the nipple.

If required, a tissue expander, such as a silicone or saline implant, is inserted under the muscle to make the reconstructed breast match the healthy one.

Loss of the muscle which is used to fill the breast causes only minor problems. "It can make it difficult for someone doing cross-country skiing or geting out of the bath," Mr Rainsbury said.

Once the wound has healed, the nipple can be reconstructed by an operation done in day surgery and the scarred skin tattooed to a natural colour.

"The procedure of removing the tumour and getting the reconstruction done immediately has surgical, psychological and financial advantages," Mr Rainsbury said.

"Surgically it is easier because you are not working with scarred tissue when you carry out the reconstruction and the whole process is speeded up because there is no need to re-examine the patient before a second operation.

"Psychologically, it helps the patient, who does not have to worry about whether to have a second operation and face all the discomforture involved. Although there is little data about this, it is likely that being able to have an immediate reconstruction will improve womens' attitude to the disease.

"Financially, the cost of performing just one operation instead of two will mean a minimum saving to the National Health Service of £1,000 per patient."

Mr Rainsbury said that surgeons now needed to be trained in the new technique. Around 6,000 of the 10,000 women a year who have mastectomies could benefit from the operation, but only a handful of surgeons are so far capable of performing it.

New treatment for advanced meningitis

By Audrey Magee, Ireland correspondent

DOCTORS in Ireland claim to have found an improved treatment for meningococcal septicaemia, a disease that kills half the patients affected and damages survivors' limbs and organs.

The doctors, whose findings are published in the current edition of *The Lancet*, claim to have saved 12 meningitis patients close to death by giving them Protein C, a natural blood-thinning enzyme. About 300 people died of meningitis in England and Wales last year. Meningococcal meningitis is the most life-threatening form of the disease, responsible for over half of the cases of bacterial meningitis.

Owen Smith and his team, from the National Children's Hospital and St James's Hospital in Dublin, administered the protein intravenously to the patients in hospitals around the city. None of the 12 patients, aged between three months and 27 years, died. Two patients suffered amputations and one had chronic renal failure. "The patients not only survived but we also prevented a lot of the complications that you see in patients that survive such as skin grafts, amputations and renal disease," Dr Owen said.

He used Protein C, as well as the accepted treatments for critically ill meningitis patients, such as antibiotics, other anti-coagulants and fluid to flush out the system. He believes that Protein C works by counteracting the thrombosis prevalent when the meningococcal bacteria enter the bloodstream. Blood-clotting usually indicates that a patient is near death.

Dr Owen emphasises that early treatment with antibiotics remains the best way of treating meningitis, but suggests Protein C for the later stages of the illness. He said that further research was required.

IN BRIEF

Man dead in cell was suicide risk

David Jenkins, 28, of Hirwaun in Glamorgan, who was found dead in his cell on Thursday at the recently opened Securicor-managed Parc jail near Bridgend while awaiting sentence, had slashed his throat in a magistrates' court two months ago, it was disclosed.

Arson boy held

A 12-year-old boy who set fire to a school because he had a grudge against the headmaster was ordered to serve two years in detention by a judge at Bolton Crown Court.

Fourth life term

Frederick Low, 41, received his fourth life sentence for the murder of Norman Manning, 26, a fellow prisoner, in a row over a piano lesson at Long Lartin jail.

Support club

Birmingham City Football Club has had a special seat built at St Andrew's stadium so that 50-stone Barry Austen, 29, will be able to watch his favourite team play Portsmouth today.

Fresh move to ban lakeland powerboats

By Michael Hornsby

A DECISION by the former Environment Secretary, John Gummer, not to ban powerboating and water-skiing on Windermere has been quashed by the High Court, which had heard complaints that he acted without giving adequate reasons.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister and Mr Gummer's successor, decided not to contest an application for a judicial review submitted by the Lake District National Park and will now reconsider the case for a ban.

The park authorities last year proposed amending a bylaw so as to impose a 10mph speed limit on power-driven boats. It said the limit, which would effectively stop water-skiing and jet-skiing, was *needed to allow the majority of* visitors and residents to enjoy the lake in peace and safety.

Mr Gummer refused to confirm the new bylaw despite the conclusion of an independent inspector that there was a "fundamental problem of incompatibility" between fast boats and other users. About 7,000 powerboats are registered annually to use Windermere, which is 10½ miles long. At busy times as many as 1,500 craft are on the water.

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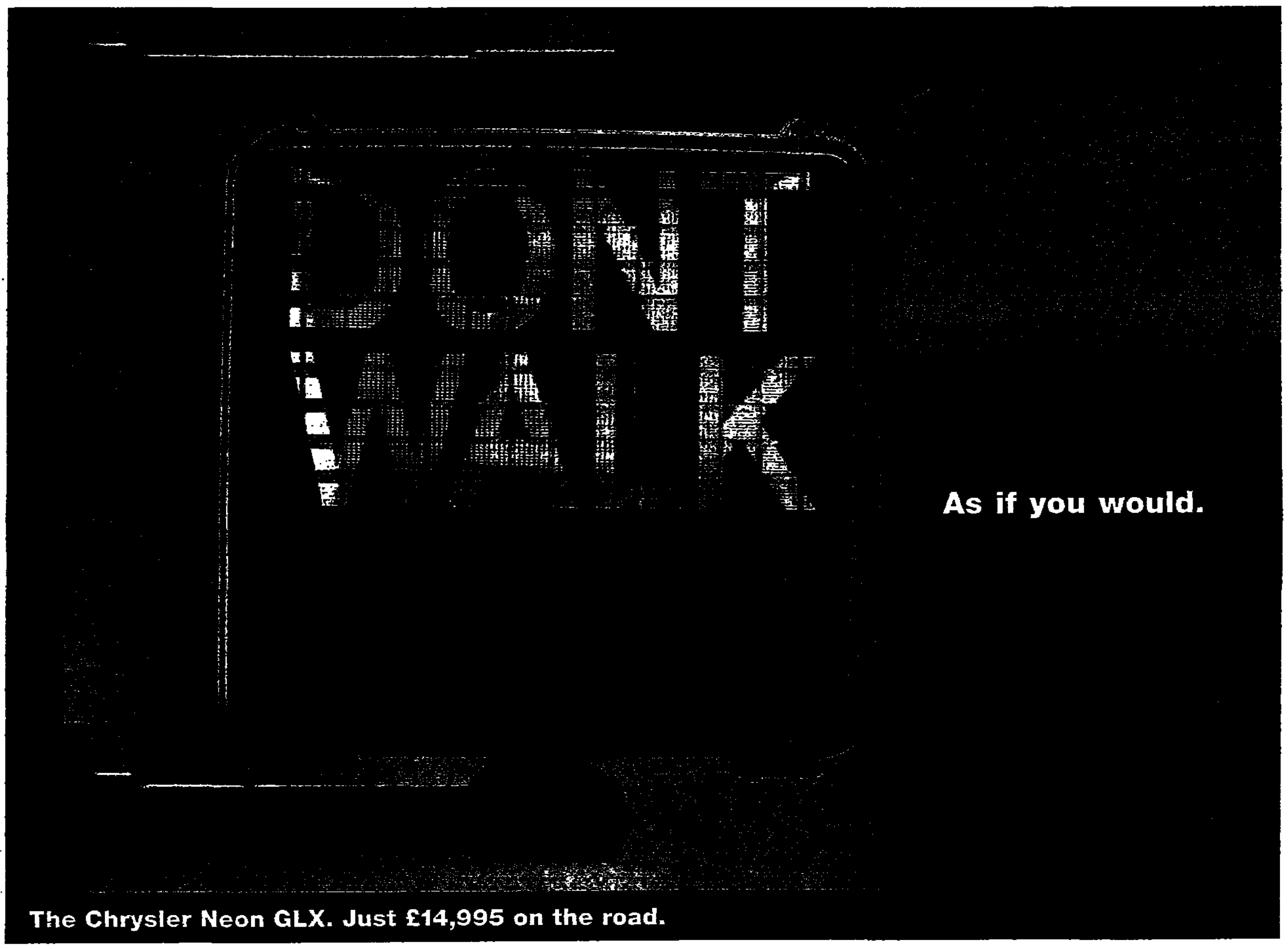

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Henry VIII is culinary shape of the future

Game is on again as Britain gets a taste for Tudor cooking, writes **Robin Young**

THE sort of food that sustained Henry VIII is returning to the dinner and restaurant table.

The revival of Old English fare is the coming cookery trend as sales foretell the end of the so-called new British cuisine, which draws inspiration from continental, Far Eastern and American dishes. Sales of venison, boar and rabbit are rocketing, supermarkets report, as cooks turn to the sort of food that would have been enjoyed by Henry and his court.

Dishes such as venison pie and rabbit stew have re-established themselves as favourites; saddle of rabbit often appears on restaurant menus; wild boar farmers are reporting record sales; and it may only be time before haunch of venison supplants beef once more as the Sunday roast. Tesco is now canvassing farmers to consider stocking herds of deer to supply the rapidly growing market. Tesco's sales of rabbit have more than doubled in the past 12 months. Steve Murrells, Tesco's meat category controller, said yesterday: "All enthusiastic cooks have been through the gamut of dishes from France, Italy and China. Now they are looking for something different and finding the answer on their own doorstep. The rich flavours of old English cooking are amazing and certainly as good as any of the traditional dishes from the French countryside."

Safeway, which has been selling wild Scottish venison for more than three years, said that demand was still rising steadily. Sainsbury's has recently increased its intake of venison from English deer parks.

The revival of traditional English cookery is welcomed by Kit Chapman, proprietor of the Castle Hotel in Taunton, Somerset, and his chef, Phil Vickery. Mr Vickery's revivalist recipes include such delights as roast scallops with bubble and squeak, haunch of venison with chestnuts and prunes, and steamed spiced lamb pudding. He said yesterday: "Braised rabbit legs, braised ox tongue and venison meatballs sell out as bar food."

The trend is also hailed by the television chef Gary Rhodes, who is shortly to launch a range of "restaurant quality" ready-meals, manufactured by Hazlewood Foods. They include such historic British staples as salmon fish cakes, pork sausages in onion gravy, lamb hotpot, beef stew and dumplings and braised oxtail.

Sales of wild boar are increasing, but principally through specialist meat producers. There are not yet enough supplies for supermarkets. Rabbit, on the other hand, is available at most butchers' counters, though cheap imports from China are no longer available. Much of the rabbit meat on the market now is home-produced.

Dietitians are concerned at the thought of a return to Tudor traditions, though, because it has been calculated that Henry VIII's daily consumption totalled at least 5,000 calories, about double today's average. One popular Tudor recipe, Great Pie, involved a cholesterol-laden blend of woodcock, suet, dates, chicken, prunes, raisins, duck and egg yolks. The Tudor period was the first in which Britons limited themselves largely to three regular meals a day. "Whereas of old we had breakfasts in the forenoon, beverages or munchions after dinner, and thereto rear-suppers generally when it was time to go to rest, now these old repasts, thanked be to God, are very well left," wrote one commentator.

> ‘Take one woodcock, suet, dates, chicken, prunes, duck and egg yolks’

Peter Brears, the food historian who wrote English Heritage's booklet on food in 16th-century Britain, describes a standard meal for the Tudor monarchs as likely to contain "loynes of Veale, cold Capon, Beefe and Goose, with Pygeon pyes and Mutton colde, Neates tongs poudred well, and Gambones of the Hogge, then Saulsages and savery knackes".

The main meal would often be followed by an elaborate dessert course of sweetmeats, fruit and wine, displaying as much as possible of wealth, colour, ingenuity and culinary splendour.

Amanda Ursell, a nutritional consultant, said yesterday: "Venison and game are relatively healthy alternatives to other red meat as they tend to be leaner, and are particularly good sources of iron and zinc, but 400g a day is quite enough. People were much more active in the 16th century and did not have central heating."

Another popular conceit of Tudor times was the surprise pie, baked with one compartment "blind", filled with flour and beans which could be discarded when baking was complete. Thereafter a live snake, a couple of mice, or some blackbirds could be concealed in the empty compartment, to make their appearance at the table when the pie was served. Such pies were the origin of the nursery rhyme about the four and twenty blackbirds, but the birds are now a protected species.

Leading article, page 23

Lemons were a favourite Italian, if not English, ingredient

E.T. ARCHIVE

A 16th-century Italian view of *The Marriage Feast at Cana.* Such scenes of historical pageantry are the material for *The Banquet,* a novel by Orazio Bagnasco

All the ingredients for a truly murderous plot

Richard Owen on a gastronomic thriller for Italian tastebuds

AS WINTER sets in and the shops fill with seasonal foods, Italy is being gripped by its first "gastronomic thriller", set in the sumptuous and dangerous world of Renaissance intrigue.

Called simply *The Banquet*, the novel offers a unique blend of late 15th-century power play, historical pageantry and lovingly described food and drink — "a heady mixture of power, passion and recipes", as one reviewer put it.

The book, by Orazio Bagnasco — himself a colourful character with past links to both Italian high finance and the Far Left — is a deliberate challenge to Umberto Eco on his own ground, and resembles *The Name of the Rose* in its scholarly background and its gripping series of mysterious and ghastly deaths. The book records in Rabelaisian detail the "banquet to end all banquets", staged (with the help of Leonardo Da Vinci) to celebrate the marriage sealing the political alliance between two dynasties: the Sforza Dukes of Milan, and the Aragon Kings of Naples.

But Signor Bagnasco has embroidered history to make it a banquet with a difference: on the journey from Naples to Tortona, murder is plotted along with the menu, and one by one the hapless bridegroom's friends and relatives gasp, turn purple and die, becoming what the publishers call "Mafia-style excellent cadavers".

Faced with a 1998 budget of economic austerity and relatively mundane daily politics, Italians are happily immersing themselves in *The Banquet*. "What is most delicious can also be most treacherous," Bagnasco said. "That goes for food, women and a lot else."

Bagnasco, 69, was born in Genoa, not far from the site of the fabled 1488 wedding banquet at Tortona Castle. Politics, banking and antiquarian books aside, his secret passion is gastronomy. Founder of the International Library of Gastronomy at Lugano, Switzerland, he spent two years gathering material for *The Banquet*.

In an attempt to bring alive "the world of the senses" of 500 years ago, he has drawn on the paintings of the time, its documents, fashion, jewels, weaponry and dances. "It was a world of power and violence, where there were no limits to either," he said. "It was a world where a few people had more than anyone had ever had at any other time in the history of the human race." Above all it was a world of fine food. "I regard the art of the kitchen as a metaphor for the human comedy," he said. He tried out most of the recipes in his own kitchen, including pheasant breast pie, pigeon pie and a "potage of chicken livers and cocks' combs".

One murder takes place while turtle doves and larks are emerging from a remarkable confection consisting of towers and battlements made of marzipan and nougat. The real banquet was held for the wedding of Gian Galeazzo Sforza, the 20-year-old Duke of Milan, and Isabella of Aragon, the 18-year-old daughter of King Alfonso of Naples. The wine glasses were made of special glass designed to "shatter if it came into contact with poison". Nonetheless, in Bagnasco's story, five people die in the course of the feast. In reality, Gian Galeazzo died in suspicious circumstances, but not until four years later. In Bagnasco's view, "all roads lead to the kitchen. If you know what people ate, and how they ate it, you will have understood the essentials of the society they lived in."

Conscious of the Umberto Eco analogy, he says he has "tried to reconstruct a period which is truer than Eco's Middle Ages, where no one seems to do anything but sing Gregorian chants all day."

Il Banchetto is published in Italian by Mondadori in Milan. It is not yet available in English. Bagnasco is working on his next project, a murder mystery set in 18th-century Venice.

Smothered rabbit

Take a Pipkin, a porrenger of water, two or three spoonfuls of Vergis, ten Onions pilled, and if they be great quarter them, mingle as much Pepper and salte as will season them, and rub it upon the rabbit: put in a peece of butter in the bellye and a peece in the broth, and a few Currans if you wil, stop your pot close and seethe it wil a softe fier but no fier under the bottom, then when it is sodden serve it in upon soppes and lay a few Barberies upon the dishe.

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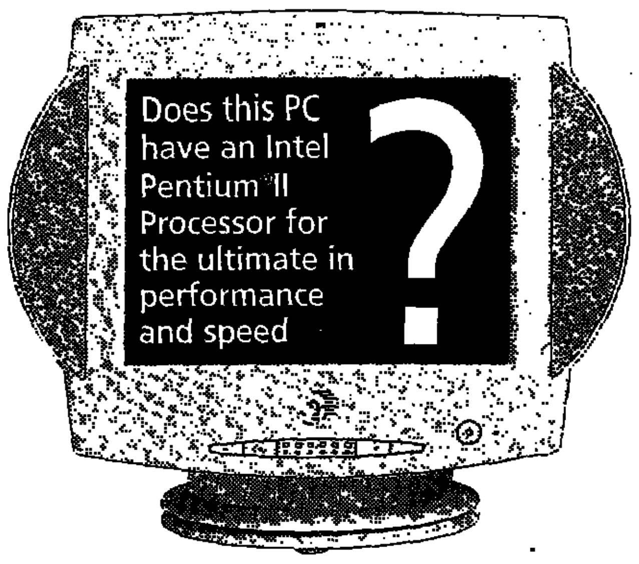

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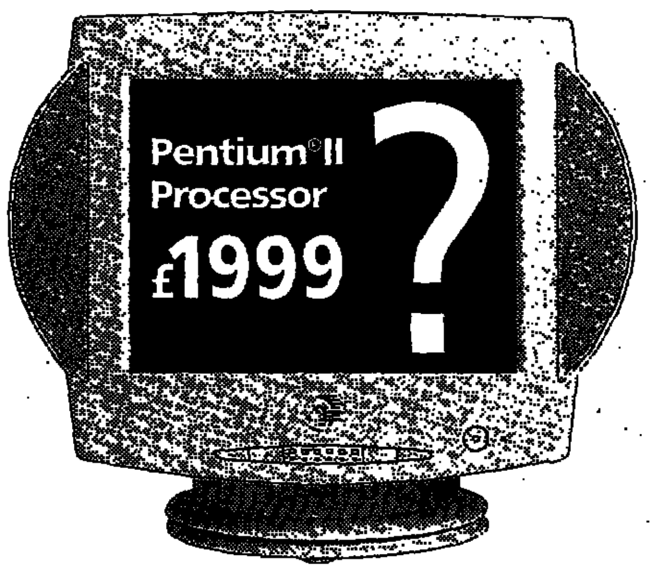

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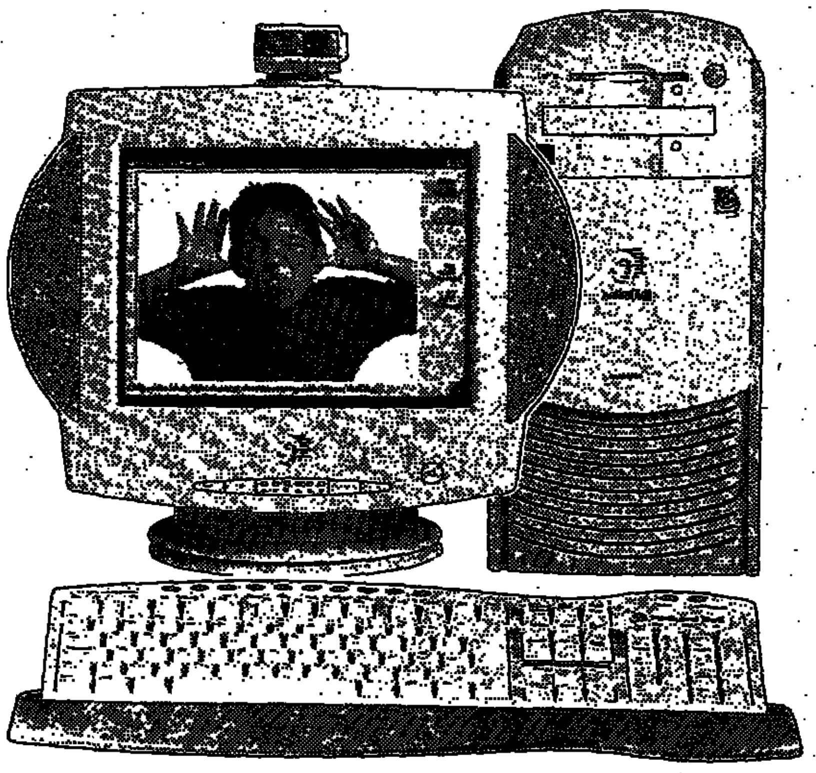

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Arafat spurns accord on land

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

MIDDLE EAST peace moves suffered a setback yesterday when the Palestinians rejected an Israeli plan to fuse three scheduled West Bank troop withdrawals into one in a bid to launch fast-track talks on a final settlement.

The rejection came even before Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, had won his divided Cabinet round to the plan, which would give Yassir Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority, control of 6-8 per cent more of the West Bank before the final negotiating round.

"The peace agreement called for Israeli redeployment in three phases ... none of them has been implemented," said Marwan Kanafani, Mr Arafat's spokesman. "We are going to take what is our right in the first phase, in the second phase and in the third phase."

Mr Kanafani, giving the first official Palestinian Authority reaction to the Israeli plan, added: "We want all the land that belongs to us and we are not going to get into the game of percentages."

The Tel Aviv daily *Yediot Aharonot* reported that Elyakim Rubenstein, the Attorney-General, had informed the Government that it was legally obliged under the terms of the accord signed with the Palestine Liberation Organisation to implement all three stages.

Supporters of the plan claim that the Palestinian Authority has failed to honour pledges to which it was committed.

The Israeli Cabinet is due to meet tomorrow to debate the plan. The session comes amid rightwing threats to overthrow the Government's 66-54 Knesset majority if any more of what is seen as "biblical Israel" is handed to the Arabs.

Apartheid lies 'were spread by Glasgow agent'

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICAN intelligence agents successfully planted stories in leading British newspapers aimed at smearing the African National Congress and Winnie Madikizela-Mandela in particular. as part of an international propaganda campaign, according to former secret service agents who testified at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings here yesterday.

Information exaggerating the role of the South African Communist Party within the ANC and an "invitation" to the IRA to attend the 49th ANC conference in Durban in 1991 were also manufactured and fed to sympathetic groups abroad, including the Conservative Party, they said.

In a document dated June 20, 1991, Warrant Officer Paul Erasmus, who testified yesterday, said that *Vanity Fair*, *The Times*, *The Independent*, *The Sunday Times* and the *Daily Express* were among publications in which "notable successes. were achieved" by Stratcom, the "covert Strategic Communication" branch of the Special Branch.

Mr Erasmus said he had recruited an agent in Glasgow, Harvey Ward, a former head of the Rhodesian Broadcasting Corporation during UDI, who "immediately gave Stratcom Johannesburg an international capability".

"Within days I was forwarding masses of Stratcom material to him. This agent had a mass of conservative contacts internationally, including politicians, journalists, intelligence contacts and so on. Almost immediately, dirt on the ANC — including matters relating to Mrs Mandela's activities — began to appear in the international press." Outside, Mr Erasmus said Ward was now dead. He declined to name other British contacts.

Mr Erasmus has forged friendly ties with Mrs Mandela, appearing with her on public platforms and supported her claims that many of the allegations made against her are false.

In five days of hearings, the commission has been told by many witnesses that Mrs Mandela was present when Stompie Moeketsi Seipei and four other young activists were abducted and assaulted at her home. Witnesses have also accused her of murder.

Mr Erasmus said that he had planted disinformation in the international media that Mrs Mandela and her daughter were nymphomaniacs and users of marijuana.

"I spread the fabrication that the President [Nelson Mandela] had personally authorised the necklace method [of killing alleged informers] which I believe was widely reported internationally."

Mr Erasmus told *The Times* outside the hearing that he had had particular success in planting information among British Tories, who "lapped up everything we sent them without even running the slightest check". He said he was also responsible for spreading information that the ANC had lost control of local defence units and that Mr Mandela was going senile. In evidence, Superintendent John McPherson, who was in charge of Stratcom, apologised to journalist Fred Bridgland for having named him as a "friendly contact".

Mr Bridgland is the author of *Katiza's Journey*, the book in which Katiza Cebekhulu, a witness to the commission, accused Mrs Mandela of stabbing Stompie in 1988. Mr McPherson said he had made an "honest mistake" in confusing Mr Bridgland with another journalist. Mr Erasmus was asked outside the hearing if he remembered any particular successes. He cited a 1991 leading article in *The Times*, "Get Your House in Order".

Desmond Tutu during a break in yesterday's hearing

ADIL BRADLOW / REUTERS

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela wiping away a tear during the testimony yesterday of a youth who described his torture at the hands of the police during the apartheid era

Pro-Sharif mob storms Pakistan Supreme Court

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS,
AND ZAHID HUSSAIN
IN ISLAMABAD

THOUSANDS of slogan-chanting supporters of Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistani Prime Minister, yesterday stormed the Supreme Court in an attempt to force adjournment of his trial of on contempt charges.

The crowd, led by MPs of the ruling Muslim League, broke into the building and abused Sajjad Eli Shah, the Chief Justice, who was presiding over the case. Mr Sharif has been charged with making slanderous remarks against the Chief Justice last month. If found guilty he could face disqualification from office, leaving the army as the only credible centre of power.

Police stood by and watched the mob ransacking the building. A police officer said he had been ordered not to interfere. Mr Chief Justice Shah hurriedly adjourned the proceedings and the judges moved to their chambers as the crowd reached the courtroom. There was pandemonium in the court as the mob attacked journalists and lawyers. A former Attorney-General was manhandled. "We cannot do anything until we get an order," a police officer said.

The Chief Justice is locked in a constitutional battle with the Prime Minister over the appointment of judges.

Pakistan's fragile democracy is in tatters and the army, which would *like to stay outside the fray*, is watching with mounting alarm.

Mob power is a familiar tactic in Pakistan: for politicians to use it against the respected Supreme Court is unprecedented.

THE coalition Government in India effectively collapsed last night after the Congress Party announced it was withdrawing support (Christopher Thomas writes). Inder Kumar Gujral, the Prime Minister, was expected to submit his resignation later to President Narayanan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ian Smith's farm to be seized

Harare: A farm owned by Ian Smith, the former Rhodesian Prime Minister, is among 1,500 properties earmarked for confiscation and redistribution among blacks (Jan Raath writes).

The list of properties includes some of the biggest and most sophisticated estates accounting for a large proportion of commercial output.

Kinshasa clashes

Kinshasa: At least 11 people were reported killed in shooting between soldiers in the grounds of President Kabila's residence and elsewhere in the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo. *(AFP)*

Cook gold plea

Warsaw: Robin Cook called on countries attending next week's Nazi gold conference to support Britain's plan to hand over the remaining 5.5 tonnes to a fund run by Jewish non-government organisations.

Graves inquiry

Islamabad: *The United* Nations is considering sending a team to northern Afghanistan to investigate mass graves which local people have said may contain as many as 2,000 bodies. *(Reuters)*

Old flame

Beijing: China has put out a coalbed fire which had been burning in the northwestern region of Xinjiang for more than 400 years since spontaneously igniting in 1560, a newspaper reported. *(Reuters)*

Death sentence

Ankara: A Turkish security court sentenced 33 Muslim activists to death for their part in an Islamist riot and arson attack in 1993 in which dozens of people were killed. An appeal is likely. *(Reuters)*

Mother sued

Rome: Paolo Tonelli, 38, of *Mestre, a Venetian suburb*, is suing for damages because his mother "failed to consult him" before remarrying when he was 20, causing him "lasting psychological harm".

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Black comic stands up for irreverence

TUNKU VARADARAJAN'S

NEW YORK

"YOU know what I like about Clinton? He's got real problems, like you and me. He's runnin' out of money. His wife's a pain. All his friends are goin' to jail. If Clinton spent a $100 bill, someone would put it up to the light. It's almost as if we have a black President."

These are the musings of Chris Rock, a comedian described by *The New York Times* recently as "probably the funniest and smartest comedian working today in America".

Rock, a 31-year-old New Yorker, styles himself as an "equal opportunities offender", which means that he is rude about everyone, everything, and every race — particularly blacks. He has often said that blacks are more racist than whites, "because black people even hate black people".

Bill Cosby, the paterfamilias of all blacks in showbusiness, will not speak to him, so unamused is he by Rock's roughshod irreverence. Marion Barry, Washington's Mayor, will not speak to him either, because Rock once quipped, at the time of the Million Man March on the capital, that "even in our finest hour, we had a crack-head on stage".

Not surprisingly, the Rev Al Sharpton, the firebrand black leader from New York, also detests Rock, as does O. J. Simpson, whom he has pilloried mercilessly.

Writing about Simpson's acquittal in his recently published book of comedic philosophy, *Rock This!*, Rock declared: "I ain't seen white people that mad since they cancelled *M*A*S*H*."

The tiny comedian is being hailed here as the new Eddie Murphy, a title from which he tries to distance himself. True, Murphy was Rock's mentor, and still is his biggest fan, but the new kid on the block has a newer, rawer tale to tell. He's Chris Rock, and already worth several million.

Parents on gang alert

AFTER reports that children as young as six are being recruited by gangs such as The Bloods, the city's police this week published A Parent's Guide to Gang Identification. *Parents are enjoined to check children's arms for burn marks and gang motifs; make sure they wear nothing to school but their uniform: and search bags and bedrooms for weapons. Clearly, it is as hard to be a parent here as it is to be a child.*

MARTY LEDERHANDLER / AP

Chris Rock, the self-styled equal opportunities offender, speaking at a press conference earlier this year during nominations for the 1997 MTV awards

Mayor puts a stop to bus adverts

LAST week, *New York* magazine thought that it had the perfect publicity banner. Scores of city buses were set to roll out of their garages with a commercial message painted on their sides, declaring the magazine to be "Possibly the only thing in New York Rudy hasn't taken credit for".

However, the Rudy in question, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, was so angered by this *lèse-majesté* that he leaned on the bus company to pull the offending ads. Meekly, the company complied.

Now *New York* has sued Mr Giuliani, saying that its freedom of expression has been curtailed unlawfully. The Mayor countered: "If they want to take me and use me to sell their magazine, they have to get my permission." The trial begins soon.

☐ A 66-year-old businessman was honoured here recently by the Irish-American community. Charles Feeney, a philanthropist, has donated $610 million to universities, medical centres and "others in need". This last category, however, is not as innocuous as it seems. Mr Feeney finances the Washington office of Sinn Fein.

Obscurity on a plate

THERE should be a prize for anyone who can comprehend this gift idea, revealed recently in the New York version of *Time Out*: "Jeff Koons limited edition plate. Looking for that special tchotchke? Well, look no further than this Koons multiple. This silvery metal plate is the backdrop for a balloon-animal poodle, sculpted in full relief." Price? $450.

☐ *Thanksgiving Day this week was made more festive by news that wild turkeys had returned to New York for the first time since — some reckon — the War of Independence.*

Almost as surprising as their return is their choice of borough. They have picked a park in the Bronx, New York's toughest and arguably least turkey-friendly area. One woman said: "We've got hoods and pushers and real bad-ass people here. And we now got turkeys. I tell you, the Bronx is one helluva place!"

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Inquiry mars mass Moonie blessing

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

THE Rev Sun Myung Moon's plans for thousands of couples to attend a marriage blessing ceremony in Washington today has struck a jarring note.

One of Mr Moon's closest aides bought a full-page advertisement in *The Washington Post* yesterday to decry the newspaper's investigation of Mr Moon's Unification Church and its many business offshoots.

The attack was in contrast to the sweetness and joy that Mr Moon and his aides were hoping to spread with their ceremony, which will be conducted in a football stadium.

Invitations have gone to 35,000 couples to "Blessing '97" to reaffirm their vows. Yesterday the organisers set out chairs on the pitch for about 2,500 couples who will take their wedding vows for the first time.

Mr Moon has conducted other mass weddings and, as before, in many cases he will have matched church members who have never met or barely know each other.

The organisers claimed that 3.6 million couples in more than 50 countries were expected to participate in the marriage rededication ceremony by satellite link. The singer Whitney Houston will reportedly receive more than $1 million (£600,000) for a 45-minute appearance at the festivities.

Moon: invitations to 35,000 couples

The advertisement in the *Post* accused the newspaper of "tabloid sensationalism at its worst" and of having a "well-deserved reputation for arrogantly disdaining traditional family values and genuine religious beliefs".

It was a bold decision for the *Post* to run the attack on itself, the more so because it was levelled by Dong Moon Joo, who is president of *The Washington Times*. The latter is a much smaller rival of the *Post*, but is owned by the Unification Church. In a series on the "Moonies", the *Post* quoted Mr Moon as saying that he had spent more than $1 billion in subsidies for the *Washington Times* over 15 years.

In the advert, Mr Dong said that the *Post* had grossly exaggerated the extent of the losses.

Bulgaria in Crisis
Appeal to Times Readers

LEFT TO FREEZE
Yordan, 1½, already malnourished could die from cold and hunger this winter unless aid reaches him now. With temperatures plummeting to -15°C Yordan's scant clothing and no shoes offer him little protection from the bitter cold and there is no money to heat his orphanage. There are 37,000 places in Bulgaria's orphanages.

No Money To Feed The Children
No Money To Heat The Orphanages

Bulgaria is a country in the midst of a serious economic crisis. Unless urgent help is sent, thousands of children will suffer terribly this winter.

There is little money to heat the orphanages. Orphanage Directors are having to beg for food from local villages and rarely know where the next meal is coming from. In some areas children, like Yordan, are going hungry and the cold could prove fatal for many children this winter. Without aid this could be catastrophic for Bulgaria's orphanage children.

The European Children's Trust, sister charity of The Romanian Orphanage Trust, is ready to distribute emergency food packs, clothes and fuel to the orphanages in most need.

Your gift today will save lives and bring hope.

● £28 could buy enough emergency food packs to feed 28 orphanage children for a week or heat an orphanage for 3 days.

Please send whatever you can to help children survive the winter or call 01273 299399 NOW

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Please act NOW - winter is coming

The bursting of the Britpop bubble

Album sales have slumped and the music industry is looking for a new saviour, reports **Carol Midgley**

BRITPOP, the musical phenomenon that made Britain cool again, may be breathing its last. Figures show that album sales in Britain have fallen for the third successive quarter, spelling the end of one of the industry's biggest booms.

The industry, say experts, has gorged on Britpop and the bubble has burst. Record companies are now searching for the pretender to its crown.

Although the latest quarterly figures from the British Phonographic Industry show an 8 per cent rise in all record sales compared with the same period in 1996, the picture is not so rosy. Three quarters of that increase is accounted for soleiy by *Candle in the Wind*, Elton John's tribute single to Diana, Princess of Wales, which sold 5.3 million copies around the world.

Album sales for the third quarter totalled £218 million, £230,000 fewer than in the corresponding quarter of 1996, despite the release of highly acclaimed albums from the Prodigy and Oasis. Retailers were counting on Oasis's *Be Here Now* to revive the market after a poor summer. It sold a record 639,000 copies within three days of its release in August but it could not stop average album sales declining and critics doubt it will achieve the stunning success of the band's previous album *What's the Story (Morning Glory)?*, which sold 3.3 million copies.

Britpop was popularly defined by such bands as Oasis, Blur, Pulp and Suede. Others, such as the Liverpool band Cast, have seen disappointing sales for their second album, *Mother Nature Calls*, after the huge success of their debut, *All Change*. On the more populist front, the spectacularly hyped *Spiceworld*, the latest Spice Girls album, has been a critical flop and sales have been lacklustre.

More underlying pressures are also being blamed for pop's flagging fortunes. Singles are now plugged so many weeks in advance that, by the time they go on sale, everyone has heard them and they fall out of the charts quickly. In the 1970s and 1980s, singles would stay in the charts for up to 20 weeks. Halving the price of CD singles to £1.99 in their first week of sale is now standard practice but it often loses money for the record companies and has created a glut of "one-hit wonders".

The Radio 1 disc jockey Steve Lamacq said: "We are reaching the end of a cycle with Britpop. We hadn't seen anything like it in years and we all overdosed on it, especially the music industry. It was rather like in the Sixties, when any band in a suit from Liverpool would be signed. But it is like any natural cycle — the tide has to go out before it can come in again with something new."

Industry watchers said the recent sales boom could not realistically have been maintained. Selina Webb, editor of *Music Week*, said: "The growth has certainly slowed right down, but it is still way up on a few years ago. Last year was a huge increase after the recession. I don't think we expected Britpop to be around for ever. But bands are adapting. The latest Sleeper album has moved on from Britpop sound. Blur has moved its sound on. We now have a band like the Verve doing fantasticaly well. They are more musically sophisticated than Britpop, but it was Britpop that opened the door."

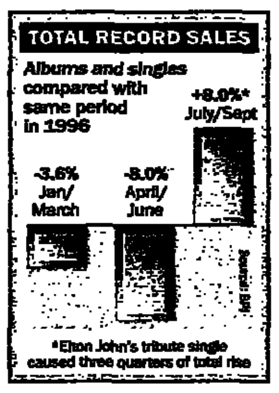
Many believe it will be several years before Britain enjoys the salad days of 1996, when record sales increased by 6 per cent to £1.08 billion. But a new pretender to Britpop's crown is on its way in Big Beat, guitar-led dance music from bands such as the Propellerheads and the Chemical Brothers.

"Next year I can see two things happening," Lamacq said. "One, there will be a growth in commercial 'anti-pop' sounds like Belle and Sebastian and, two, Britpop fans will get into Big Beat.

"If there is a crisis at the moment it is simply that the music industry has been getting out of control. There are too many labels releasing too many records. Every time music goes overground, it has to go underground again for a while to come up with something different."

TOTAL RECORD SALES

Albums and singles compared with same period in 1996

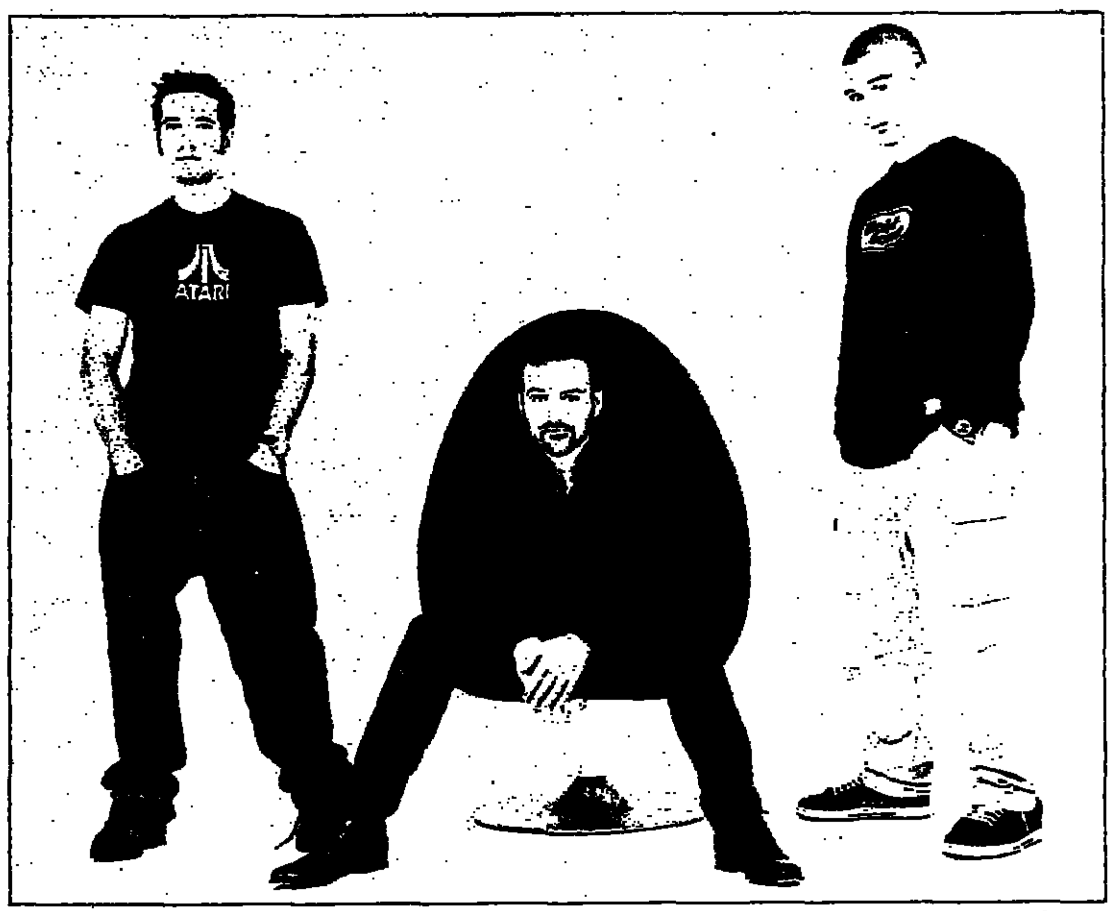


*Elton John's tribute single caused three quarters of total rise

TOP OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

The enduring names in the pop world are more likely to evoke Christmas spirit than any number of seasonal one-hit wonders, according to *The Guinness Book of British Hit Singles* (Richard Duce writes). Researchers asked 1,200 people which tunes makes them think of the festive season and 20 per cent answered *Merry Xmas Everbody* by Slade. The Christmas No 1 of last year, *Two Become One*, by the Spice Girls, received only 1 per cent of the vote.

The "mistletoe" top ten is: 1. *Merry Xmas Everybody* (Slade), 2. *White Christmas* (Bing Crosby), 3. *Do They Know It's Christmas* (Band Aid), 4. *Last Christmas* (Wham!), 5. *Happy Christmas (War is Over)* (John Lennon), 6. *Mistletoe and Wine* (Cliff Richard), 7. *I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day* (Wizzard), 8. *Jingle Bells* (Frank Sinatra) 9. *Fairytale of New York* (The Pogues), 10. *Silent Night* (Simon and Garfunkel)



The sound of 1998: the long-awaited Propellerheads debut album will be big-beat dance music

Songs for the soul, not for the sales list

By Charlie Porter

MANY of the old Britpop mob will release new albums next year including Pulp, Space and Shed Seven but it will be a surpise if any capture hearts, minds and sales as they did in the mid-1990s.

The first two big albums of 1998 are pure dance music. Propellerheads bring out their long-awaited debut album at the end of January, while a couple of weeks earlier the French duo Air release an exquisite mix of house and blues on a much-vaunted LP called *Moon Safari*.

Black singers have finally gained an equal footing in the charts. The urban American mix of hip-hop and soul, best heard on Puff Daddy's *I'll Be Missing You*, will become the dominant sound.

There are still guitar bands starting up. One of the most-watched will be the Unbelievable Truth, but they are unlikely to achieve Oasis-like sales — their music is too intelligent. Indeed most of the new British talent don't care for attempts at commercial success.

Glasgow's young band Mogwai will continue to gain support, as will Arab Strap and the Delgados, two of the best bands in Britain with none of the Gallagher hype.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Shaken but not deterred

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THE SPENCER DIVORCE

The earl ponders his 'big miscalculation'

JOHN ROAN

Fairytale start: Earl and Countess Spencer embrace on their wedding day

Legal advisers and friends warned Earl Spencer not to wrangle with his wife in a Cape Town court, but he took no notice of them, **Daniel McGrory** reports

THE humiliation Earl Spencer has suffered in a Cape Town court all this week is described by those closest to him as "the greatest miscalculation of his life".

As he spends the weekend in South Africa pondering the wisdom of pursuing this case against his estranged wife, Countess Spencer, he has recognised too late that he has only himself to blame for the embarrassment.

Legal advisers and friends warned him not to wrangle with his wife in court because of the damage it would do to his reputation — so enhanced by his words at the funeral of his sister, Diana, Princess of Wales. His vilification of the tabloid press and barely disguised attack on the attitude of the Royal Family to his sister earned him almost heroic status for the first time in his life.

Never a popular figure in Britain, his pledge in Westminster Abbey to honour his sister's memory by taking a hand in the upbringing of Princes William and Harry was applauded even by the newspapers he regarded as his enemy. Even Tony Blair was asking to consult him. His circle of friends say that, armed with this new confidence, Lord Spencer decided to bring his four-year separation from his wife to a formal end as quickly as possible.

One said: "It was as if he wanted to start afresh — a new Charles Spencer. But his usual desire to have his own way has got the better of him."

Lawyers who had read Lady Spencer's affidavit told him that in 28 pages she destroys the image of him as a defender of family values and privacy and instead portrays the man she married in 1989 as a drunken, callous womaniser.

Typically, Lord Spencer, 33, ignored all the advice and stubbornly refused to increase his £310,000 cash offer to the mother of his four children, which she has dismissed privately as "damned mean".

"Charlie felt he was being bullied and blackmailed into a deal," his friend added. "Remember, this is a man used to getting his own way, particularly up against a woman he regards as timid. Victoria is so paranoid about publicity and revealing anything about her private life he was sure she would panic on the courtroom steps.

"His biggest miscalculation was how strong Victoria has become and how badly she wants her revenge on him for the infidelities and cruelties. She also thinks he is being mean over the money.

"He was the one who wanted the marriage ended and he was warned going to London might cost him more money, but at least all their dirty linen could not have been reported by the press."

Her lawyers confessed their astonishment that the Spencer legal team had not offered them an improved last-minute financial deal, along with a gagging order on Lady Spencer.

One lawyer said: "He must have known the press that he savaged at Diana's funeral would relish their chance to get him."

Again Lord Spencer had underestimated a foe, telling friends that the tabloid press would be so chastened after the Princess's death that they would ignore his divorce pro-

SASA KRALJ / AP

Lady Spencer, flanked by her legal team, at the Supreme Court in Cape Town

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THE SPENCER DIVORCE

Althorp, left, the Spencer family home in Northamptonshire and, right, Lord Spencer's home in the Cape Town suburb of Constantia

ceedings rather than risk further public condemnation. He *also underrated the desire* for vengeance of his former mistress, Chantal Collopy, who, unknown to him, had secretly struck up a friendship with Lady Spencer and, worse, had provided damning ammunition for her lawyers.

Realisation of his mistakes dawned on Monday morning as he strolled through the sunshine to the High Court in Cape Town to find his wife and mistress, all smiles, walking into the oak-pannelled Court 17 together.

Lord Spencer could only comfort himself with the thought that this hearing was merely to decide whether their divorce should be settled in South Africa, as he wants, or London, where Lady Spencer believes *she can* expect a settlement nearer the £3.5 million she is demanding.

He was to be proved wrong again. Jeremy Gauntlett, Lady Spencer's impressive barrister, persuaded the judge that Lord Spencer's conduct during the marriage was crucial to the case.

"He knew Victoria had named three of his affairs, but he was genuinely stunned when the lawyer blurted out that he had up to 12 mistresses. That wasn't in her affidavit. It was the first he heard of it," his friend said.

Lord Spencer gaped open-mouthed at his wife who sat 10ft away on the same wooden bench. She refused to look at him.

"After that first morning, Charles faced a dilemma. His reputation was damaged and he felt the only resort to clear his name and refute what he insists are baseless lies was to have his day in court.

"The gamble is that Victoria's side can, in the meantime, throw so much dirt it sticks, no matter what he says *and does now*."

His public discomfort has been followed with wry amusement by neighbours in the fashionable Cape Town suburb of Constantia, who have long regarded him as too aloof. He seldom appears at social events and is criticised locally for refusing endless invitations. He prefers to remain with his present companion, Josie Borain, a model, in what by Constantia standards is a modest home on the *Tarrystone House estate*, a half-hour drive from the centre of the city.

His claim that he wants the divorce settled in South Africa because he regards that country as home is similarly scorned by neighbours, who believe it has never been more than a temporary exile to avoid the British press. The view is that Lord Spencer is anxious to agree a financial settlement before returning to *Althorp*, which by *next* summer will be among Britain's great tourist attractions.

The case had to be postponed because of his sister's death and there was surprise in the Cape at Lord Spencer's anxiety to expedite the matter. One legal source said: "We had expected this to stay on the books for an age."

Lady Spencer assumed that her husband would be spending more time in Britain, not only to tend to Althorp and *prepare for the summer* opening to the public but also, as the "blood relation" of the late Princess, to take a hand in his royal nephews' upbringing.

She had been told by her lawyers to expect the offer of a last-moment settlement. One source said she was reluctant to consider that now "because there is so much blood on the carpet".

After the first day's hearing, on Monday, the shaken Spencer team held a hurried meeting at his lawyers' office to review their tactics.

Lord Spencer was angry that a four-page handwritten letter he sent to Mrs Collopy was read out in court in which he describes himself as "vicious, cruel and a bully"

Continued on page 18, col 3

PETER ANDREWS / REUTERS

Lord Spencer at the Supreme Court in Cape Town

MATTHEW DICKENS

The Spencers leave St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, with their twin daughters in 1992

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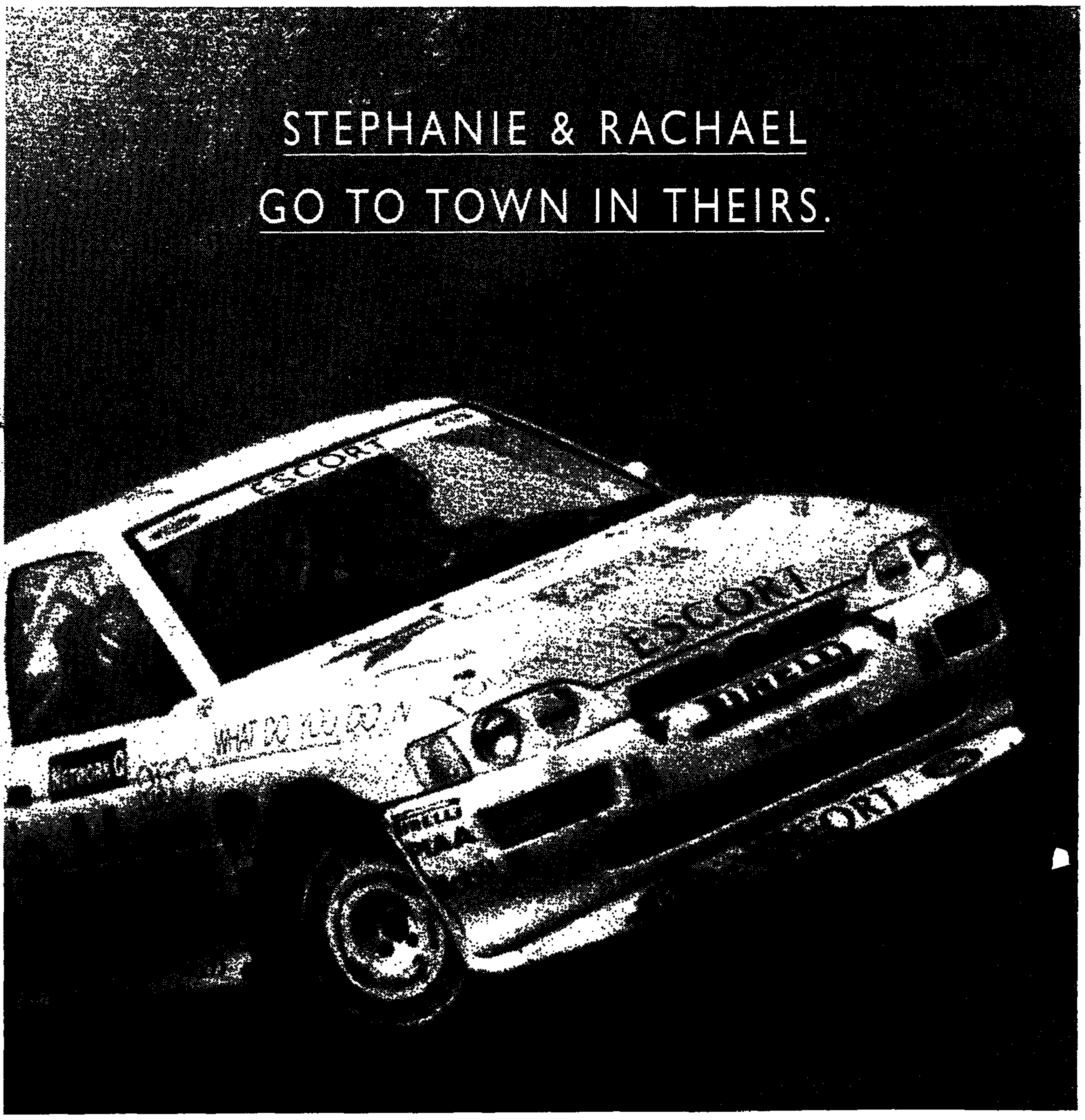

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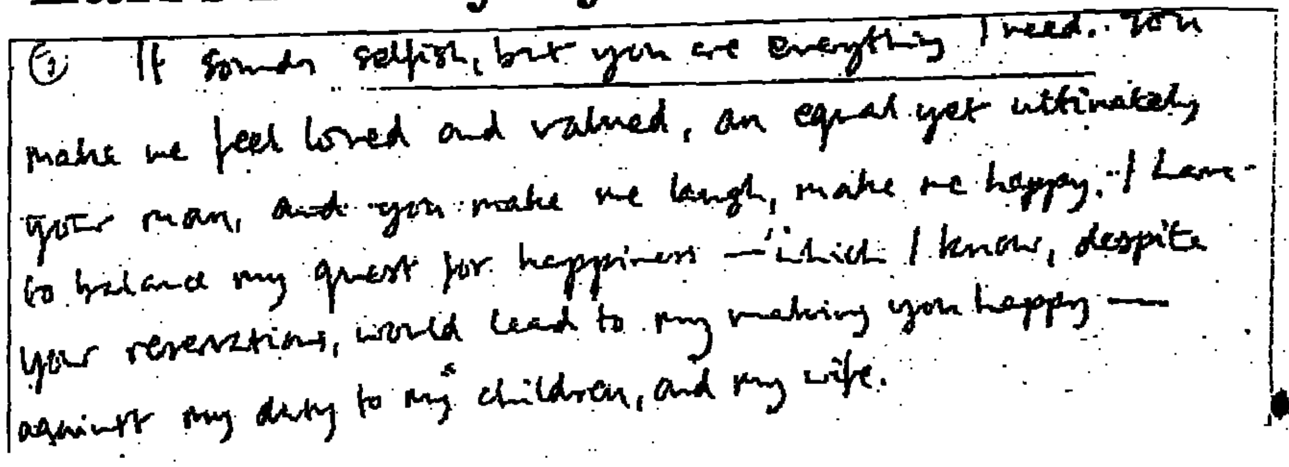
THE SPENCER DIVORCE

JOHN STILLWELL

Earl Spencer speaks at his sister's funeral service

Earl's literary style brought to book



③ It sounds selfish, but you are everything I need. You
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against my duty to my children, and my wife.

Influence of bestseller can be seen in affair, **Sandra Parsons** writes

WHAT must M. Scott Peck be making of the sorry Spencer v Spencer saga? In his now-infamous letter to his then mistress Chantal Collopy, Earl Spencer revealed himself to have joined the massed ranks of the angst-ridden (Cher and Glenn Close among them) who have read Peck's seminal work, *The Road Less Travelled*.

Peck, a psychiatrist who lives in Connecticut, wrote it in 1978, when he was 40. It was his first book (he has since written ten more) and is in the *Guinness Book of Records* as the bestselling non-fiction book ever, excluding the Bible.

"Thanks to Dr Peck", wrote the earl to his mistress, "we both know the limitations of the 'hearts and flowers' stage, but we both know what lies beyond that."

Doubtless it was Ms Collopy who persuaded her lover to read the book. It tends to be women who buy it, give it to their female friends, and urge the men in their lives to please, *please read it*.

The book's key theme is that it is only when two people fall out of romantic love that the real work of love — doing your best for somebody even when you do not feel loving — can begin.

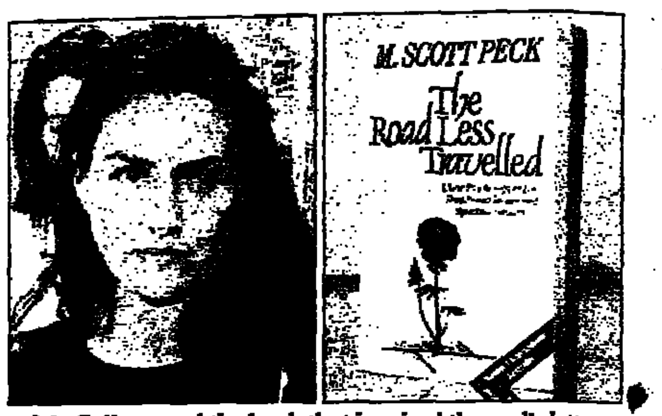
But although the earl may have read Peck, he clearly has not absorbed his message.

His writing is full of phrases such as "I have to" and "I can't." According to *The Road Less Travelled*, these reveal him to be suffering from a "character disorder". In conflict, character disordered people assume the world is at fault. Neurotics, by contrast, always assume they are at fault. Their favourite phrases are "I ought to" and "I shouldn't."

The earl informs Ms Collopy that, even though she has reservations, he *knows* he can make her happy. Part of his problem is his immature wife, who cannot deal with his own "strong character". He is glad that Chantal is "down", as it means she is "taking the whole matter very seriously". The pressure is on, he tells her.

"Character disordered individuals tend to form only shallow commitments," Peck writes. *"It is not so much that they fear the risk of committing themselves as that they basically do not understand what commitment is all about. Because their parents failed to commit themselves to them as children in any meaningful way, they grew up without experience of commitment."*

Perhaps Lord Spencer should read Peck again. On *current evidence, his memory* retention seems to have extended only to the book's opening line: *"Life is difficult."*



Ms Collopy and the book that inspired the earl's letter

Continued from page 17

towards his wife. "The decision was taken that he was in too deep, and he resolved to see it through."

The second day was no better for him. Mrs Collopy, 27, allegedly sold their correspondence, which was published in various tabloid newspapers, describing how he had "ruined" her life. She also disclosed how their affair had been going on for six months before the peer's separation. He was similarly powerless to stop his former mistress giving press interviews, which she could not have done had he agreed to a hearing in London.

His reply was for his lawyers *to tell the judge that Lady* Spencer could not handle any large financial settlement. Lord Spencer went so far in his affidavit as to allege that she was so damaged psychologically she would spend it on drugs. Dressed in a tight-fitting black short skirt that revealed her model figure, which had been restored by months of successful therapy and medical treatment, Lady Spencer smiled, knowing her *appearance gave the lie to the* accusation that she was still a disturbed bulimic.

Borain: earl's companion

One of her lawyers said: "That was a cheap shot by Spencer and it backfired."

By the third day, he felt the vagaries of South African law were conspiring against him. Lady Spencer's affidavits, which could never have been seen outside any British courtroom, became public. She reveals in them how scared she was of his alleged drunken rages.

She also claims that he had *stopped her from attending* his sister's funeral. This was a pointed reminder that Lord Spencer owes *his* international fame entirely to Diana, Princess of Wales, and of how his sister's position was useful to him when he left Oxford and worked as a reporter for American television and for newspapers he now says he despises.

A friend said: "He will never admit to it, but he has an addiction to publicity. *He says* he hates being in the press and part of him does, but, perversely, he loves it at the same time. He recognises that the high profile also helps him in lots of ways."

Lord Spencer also found *himself fighting a second legal* battle in Court 16 next door to stop local newspapers covering his infidelities, only to drop the case soon afterwards.

Last night it was understood that the two sides will use this weekend to explore ways to thrash out some kind of truce.

Simon Jenkins, page 22
Weekend, page 2

Where are you going to find the time to do all your Christmas shopping? Here.

Check the list below for shopping days between now and Christmas.

BRANCH	SUNDAY AND MONDAY OPENING (Open Sundays 12 noon-4pm)	LATE NIGHT SHOPPING
LONDON		
John Lewis, Oxford Street	open 7 days a week from Mon 1st Dec (Sun 1-5pm)	Thursday 8pm (Other days 7pm)
John Lewis, Brent Cross	now open 7 days a week	Monday to Friday 8pm
John Lewis, Kingston	open 7 days a week from Monday 1st December	Thursday, Friday 8pm
Peter Jones, Sloane Square	open 6 days a week, closed Sundays	Monday to Saturday 7pm from Monday 1st Dec
ENGLAND		
John Lewis, Bristol	now open 7 days a week	Thursday 8pm
John Lewis, Cheadle	now open 7 days a week	Monday to Friday 8pm
John Lewis, High Wycombe	now open 7 days a week	Monday to Friday 8pm
John Lewis, Milton Keynes	now open 7 days a week	Thurs, Fri 8pm (From 8th Dec Mon-Fri 8pm)
John Lewis, Peterborough	now open 7 days a week	Thursday, Friday 8pm
John Lewis, Welwyn	now open 6 days a week, closed Sundays	Thursday 8pm
Bainbridge, Newcastle	now open 7 days a week	Thursday 8pm
Bonds, Norwich	open 7 days a week from Monday 1st December	Thursday 8pm
Caleys, Windsor	open 7 days a week from Monday 1st December	Thursday 8pm
Cole Brothers, Sheffield	open 7 days a week from Monday 1st December	Wednesday 8pm
George Henry Lee, Liverpool	now open 7 days a week	Thursday 8pm
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Knight & Lee, Southsea	open 7 days a week from Monday 1st December	Thursday 8pm
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Trewins, Watford	now open 7 days a week	Thursday 8pm
Tyrrell & Green, Southampton	open 7 days a week from Monday 1st December	Thursday 8pm
SCOTLAND		
John Lewis, Aberdeen	now open 7 days a week	Thursday 8pm
John Lewis, Edinburgh	now open 7 days a week	Thursday 8pm

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هكذا من الأصل

Spiritual warrior: Father Nicolas steers clear of terms such as "possession" and "Devil", preferring to speak of the "unhappiness", "suffering" and "confusion" of those who come to see him

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER NICHOLLS

Happy to do battle with forces of evil

Ben Macintyre reports how Father Nicolas helps unhappy souls in Paris

Father Claude Nicolas at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, where he conducts many of his exorcisms

FOR a man who spends most of his waking hours casting out demons, the exorcist of Notre Dame has a devil of a sense of humour.

Father Claude Nicolas, qualified psychologist, priest, ecclesiastical judge and resident exorcist at the great medieval cathedral in Paris, merrily remembers the time when a polite, middle-aged woman came to him complaining she was hearing satanic voices in her head.

"In the middle of our talk, I asked her whether she was still hearing the voices and what they were saying. She looked embarrassed. "They just told me that *you* are a complete idiot," she replied." Recalling the incident this week, the portly and rubicund Father Nicolas shook with laughter, resembling more a Gallic version of Friar Tuck than France's most noted expurgator of evil spirits.

Father Nicolas is one of 80 exorcists recognised by the Roman Catholic Church in France. As the millennium approaches, the demand for exorcisms is steadily growing, a product of social, cultural and economic dislocation, he says, and the rise of activity among cults.

"The number of people wanting exorcism is about five times what it was 20 years ago," the priest says in his tiny chambers beneath the cloister eaves overlooking Notre Dame. About 2,000 people consult an exorcist every year in the Paris region alone. On a single day, Father Nicolas can expect to see up to six people who believe they are possessed, in one way or another, by evil. The priest, who has just published a book, *The Demon of Anguish*, steers clear of terms such as "possession" and "Devil", preferring instead to speak of the "unhappiness", "suffering" and "confusion" of those who come to him needing help.

Notre Dame, thanks to Victor Hugo and his hunchback, may be a byword for Gothic horror, but Father Nicolas laughs off the Hollywood image of exorcism. After hearing an individual's problems, he usually merely places his hands on his or her head and recites a short exorcism prayer. In severe cases, he may refer someone to a mental health professional. "You do not want to do anything too dramatic," he says, waving his arms and grinning. "That can just make things worse. It is not like *The Exorcist*, you know."

For some reason it is faintly disquieting to discover that the exorcist of Notre Dame has seen the 1973 film, but that is only one of the unexpected contrasts in a man at once a priest and a psychologist, both worldly and believing, jovial and deadly earnest. He recalls with deep scepticism the most dramatic case he witnessed. "She was about 40 years old and she had the lot: scratches were appearing on her arms; she was having visions, screaming. I think she was a 100 per cent hysteric."

On the other hand, Father Nicolas believes what he sees. He recounts, for example, the occasion when a young woman came to his rooms claiming to be bewitched. Immediately, all the light bulbs exploded. The woman apologised profusely, insisting there was a curse on her. "I tried to reassure her: 'Look, the light on the radiator is still working'. No sooner had I said the words than that light bulb popped too, and off went the radiator."

The people who come to Notre Dame seeking exorcism are from all social groups, he says. About a third are African; many are middle-class French professionals, more men than women, the largest age-group 30 to 40, some highly educated and all suffering deep spiritual anxiety.

"They are very varied. I cannot say that someone is 10 per cent genuinely possessed, 5 per cent hysterical, 15 per cent the product of their social or cultural mileu and so on. There is always a mixture. It is not for me to decide."

The key measure, he says, is that after consulting him and being exorcised, many people are reassured and grateful. He writes in his book: "They have lost their confidence. That anguish must be 'exorcised' in order to see clearly, with the vision of Christ, who is the victor over all evil. There are so many charlatans out there, false exorcists looking for money, exploiting misery. This book is an attempt to expose them."

Ask Father Nicolas whether he has directly encountered the Devil himself and he grows suddenly quiet and serious, replying with another story: "A young Congolese man, who had a doctorate from the Sorbonne, came to me in deep distress, saying he had joined two cults and needed confession and exorcism. The moment I put my hand on his forehead he gave a cry and fell unconscious. When he came to, he was beaming, radiant and went away happy."

Father Nicolas pauses. "Was that the Devil? Was that a profound religious experience linked to his culture? I don't know. But in any case, he is a believer. He asked for liberation, which worked. That is enough." Father Nicolas predicts that demand for his expertise will rise sharply in the next few years, given the increasing spiritual confusion at the *fin de siècle*, deepening social problems in France and a greater willingness by people to address their own unhappiness.

Highest homes in roof of the world

By Ben Macintyre

A JOINT Franco-British exploration team has discovered what are believed to be the world's highest human homes, beehive-shaped huts in the barren "empty quarter" of Tibet.

The ancient houses, built out of adobe mud bricks on the Changthang plain at an average altitude of 16,000ft, had been overlooked by the tiny handful of Europeans to have visited the region, according to Michel Peissel, who recently travelled to the area with fellow explorer Sebastian Guinness, of the brewing family.

They came across the mud houses during a 2,000-mile journey along the region's ancient salt routes.

Dr Peissel said that the buildings were built as winter shelters by Tibet's northernmost nomads, the Sumpa and Seng-go tribes, and had been missed by earlier adventurers who spoke no Tibetan or mistook them for Buddhist monuments.

The structures show Persian influences from prehistoric times and may be remnants of the ancient pre-Buddhist kingdom of Shang Shung, which scholars have been seeking for more than a century. The northern plains of Tibet are the highest and one of the coldest regions in the world, and the buildings have been built so as to retain maximum warmth from a fire fuelled by yak or sheep dung. Their vaulted ceilings are unknown in the rest of Tibet. In the summer the nomads live in yak-hair tents.

Dr Peissel presented his discovery to the International Symposium on Tibetan Architecture in Paris yesterday. He said the buildings might indicate that the earliest settlers of Tibet came from the West and not from the East as previously supposed.

PC PCs order of the day in Germany

From Roger Boyes in Bonn

FLAT-CHESTED Hispanic-looking car thieves have been given a breathing space by a new ruling in Germany's political-correctness revolution which obliges police officers to avoid all sexually-suggestive and ethnic adjectives in crime reports.

They will no longer be able to describe suspects as "full-bosomed" or "flat-chested", the term "negroid" is to be replaced by "African", and the word "Mediterranean" as a description of a swarthy type is to be dropped. Nobody can be described as having "Slavic" looks, and references to some regional accents are now regarded as off-limits.

The overhaul of the police vocabulary is in response to complaints by a church group, which said police reports "were using concepts that evoked Nazi racial ideology". Since individual police officers have been accused in the past of racism and sexism, Germany's regional interior ministers yesterday decided that it was time to clean up police language.

Bavaria, the region with the best crime-detection figures in Germany, is refusing to take part in the linguistic purge. Liberal police officers say the changes will make little impact on detection rates since busts can be altered by plastic surgery. Moreover, an adjective such as "negroid" was not only racist, but also very vague. Even so, some police sources believe that detection may be slowed down: 18 of the 1,500 female suspects on the Stuttgart police computer, for example, are currently described as "full-bosomed".

Political correctness has been rapidly changing the German language, and, above all, influencing television and politics. It has, as in other countries, changed traditional job descriptions and product names. For example, a cream-filled chocolate that used to be known in Germany as a "Negro's Kiss" is now a "Chocolate-Cream Kiss".

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£10,000-£24,999	Annually	5.45	4.36
£100-£9,999	Annually	5.10	4.08
£100,000 or more	Monthly	6.08**	4.86
£25,000-£99,999	Monthly	5.75**	4.60
£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	5.32**	4.25
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£100-£9,999	Annually	6.15	4.92
£100,000 or more	Monthly	7.11**	5.69
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£100,000 or more	Monthly	6.55**	5.24
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£25,000-£99,999	Annually	5.90	4.72
£10,000-£24,999	Annually	5.45	4.36
£5,000-£9,999	Annually	5.10	4.08
£100,000 or more	Monthly	6.08**	4.86
£25,000-£99,999	Monthly	5.75**	4.60
£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	5.32**	4.25
£5,000-£9,999	Monthly	4.98**	3.99

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£10,000-£24,999	Annually	5.90	4.72
£25,000 or more	Monthly	6.22**	4.98
£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	5.75**	4.60

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£10,000-£24,999	Annually	5.45	4.36
£5,000-£9,999	Annually	5.10	4.08
£25,000 or more	Monthly	5.75**	4.60
£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	5.32**	4.25
£5,000-£9,999	Monthly	4.98**	3.99

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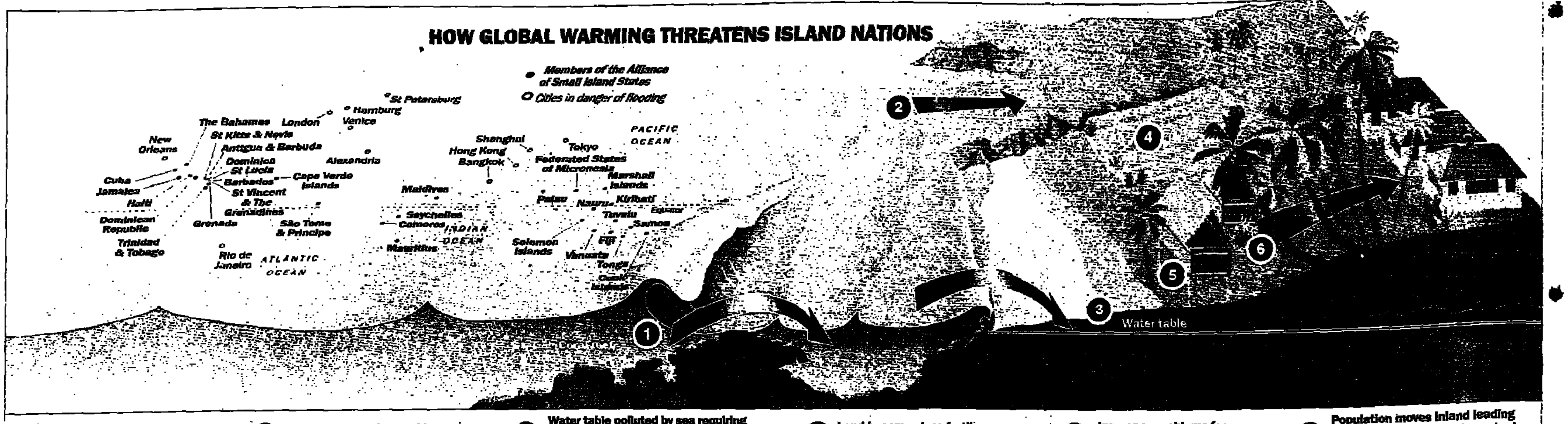

1. Waves and storms surge over coral reef
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3. Water table polluted by sea requiring imports of water or construction of de-salination plants
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5. Insurance problems for property close to coast
6. Population moves inland leading to loss of livelihood and eventual evacuation of island

Islanders ready for Pacific evacuation

Global warming threatens to swamp a string of atolls and create a refugee crisis, writes **Nick Nuttall**

AN EVACUATION plan is being drawn up by a group of Pacific islands after research showing that global warming and rising sea levels will make them uninhabitable.

The Marshall Islands are believed to be the first of a string of low-lying Pacific and Caribbean states to consider such drastic action.

But the islands — named by William Marshall, a 18th-century British naval captain, sailing by on the *Scarborough* in 1788 with convicts en route to New South Wales — are unlikely to be the last. Scientists predict that many small island states may be totally or partially swamped by rising sea levels and increased storm activity.

News of the evacuation plans comes on the eve of the climate conference starting in Kyoto, Japan, next week.

Espen Ronneberg, a member of the Marshall Islands mission to the United Nations, said: "The research has identified migration or evacuation as a worst-case scenario but one which, in the light of the scientific evidence on climate change, we should pursue."

The islands, which rely on fishing, tourism and coconuts, are vulnerable because they are on average just 6ft above sea level with the highest point being Likiep atoll at almost 20ft high.

Studies indicate that some time in the next century 80 per cent of the main island and capital will be under the waves. A string of options are being studied, including the purchase of a high-lying island elsewhere, able to accommodate the Government and the Marshalls' 56,000 citizens.

The islands also have a special treaty with the United States which means that some of the refugees from environmental change might find a haven there.

"But whether the agreement will be honoured when our country disappears under the waves is anybody's guess," said Mr Ronneberg.

The Marshall Islands, 29 atolls and 1,225 islets scattered over three quarters of a million square miles of ocean, is one of some 20 "frontline states" whose very existence is threatened by the build-up of pollution, such as carbon dioxide, in the atmosphere.

Others include the Maldives, the Cook Islands, Nauru, Kiribati (the former Gilbert Islands), the Seychelles, Antigua and Barbuda and the Federated States of Micronesia. They have banded together into the Association of Small Island States (Aosis) to lobby the industrialised nations to back a 20 per cent cut in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses. Mr Ronneberg said: "We think this is a modest figure given the threats we face. The scientists tell us we need a 60 per cent cut just to stabilise carbon dioxide emissions. But we realise this cannot be achieved overnight."

Dr Iftikhar Ayaz, the British-based honorary consul for Tuvalu, formerly the Ellis Islands, said that curbing emissions to save such nations was a crucial human rights issue.

"These people have a right to their land. It would also be a loss to the world of a culture and a language. We are doing so much to save animals and plants from extinction. How can we tolerate the extinction of a nation?"

Dr Ayaz said Tuvalu's 10,000 islanders could be relocated to Australia or New Zealand. "Their lives would be saved but the culture would die. The world would be the poorer," he said.

Many of these far-flung, vulnerable, nations are also important staging and resting posts for migrating birds, as well as being home to unique wildlife unlikely to survive elsewhere.

A spokesman for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds cited the Cape Verde islands, home to the Raso lark, and the Seychelles, home to the Seychelles magpie-robin.

"These birds will vanish from the wild if these islands disappear or there is a significant loss of land," he said.

The island nations facing the most uncertain future are, like the Marshalls, the coral atolls.

Neroni Slade, the Samoan Ambassador to the UN and chairman of Aosis, said that many small islands were already experiencing greater storm and wave damage. Property insurance was becoming increasingly hard to obtain or was being offered at prohibitively high costs.

"The insurance industry has suffered enormous losses over recent years. They are withdrawing from many islands or many ordinary citizens can no longer afford the high rates," he said.

Scientists advising the UN Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change, estimate that sea levels will rise by half a metre during the next century as global temperatures rise.

Dr Tom Spencer, of the Coastal Research Unit at Cambridge University, said the critical question was whether the reefs that protect these islands from storms and waves would grow fast enough to keep up with rising sea levels.

Some researchers fear rising temperatures will cause bleaching which kills the organisms that feed a reef's growth.

"There is also human impact. Reefs from Asia to Indonesia are under enormous pressure from huge, growing, urban population. Pollution and destruction mean maybe the corals will become less resilient," Dr Spencer said.

The ability of the reefs to defend these islands will also depend on the extent to which other climatic events become more frequent and violent.

El Niño, a transfer of warm water across the Pacific which can trigger droughts and monsoons, can — like global warming — raise sea levels by 18-20 inches.

Dr John Bythell, an expert on coral atolls at the University of Newcastle's Marine Sciences and Coastal Management Centre, said many of these islands would become intolerable well before the last acre disappeared beneath the waves.

Studies indicate that, once a reef fails to defend an atoll, the island spirals into decline. Beaches, also vital for defending the land and property and important for tourism, will be washed away. Soils, vital for buildings and crops, then become more rapidly eroded. Coral reefs need clear water to replenish themselves.

The mud and debris washed off the land would make seas murky, making it impossible for sunlight to filter through. "Nutrients, released from the land, favour other marine organisms above coral like macro-algae or fleshy seaweeds. They will then grow up and smother the reef," said Dr Bythell.

Fragile freshwater supplies, built up by rainfall and floating on top of saltwater in the centre of the islands, are likely to become contaminated by seawater. The fertile land for growing crops such as coconuts will also become increasingly salty and worthless. Eventually, more land will be lost to erosion and flooding and the economy of these states will collapse.

Many low-lying islands are at risk from rising sea levels

Leading article, page 23

Climate conference has stormy outlook

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE conference on climate change, in the Japanese city of Kyoto next month, promises to be one of the most politically charged environmental meetings for many years.

Negotiations will focus on a legally binding commitment by rich countries to curb emissions of carbon dioixide and other global warming gases such as methane.

Few nations, with the possible exception of some members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, appear to doubt scientific claims that rising pollution, mainly from burning fossil fuels, is threatening the planet. However, there remain deep divisions within key countries, including the United States, over the scale of the likely impacts, the cost of taking action and the speed required to head off the threat.

The road to Kyoto began in Rio de Janeiro five years ago when the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change obliged industrialised nations to stabilise emissions of carbon dioxide at 1990 levels by 2000.

But only a few countries, including Britain, will meet these voluntary targets. In 1995 the Berlin Mandate set a deadline for the Kyoto meeting where binding targets would become subject to international law.

The offers on the table are numerous and many have caveats. New Zealand wants its forests, which soak up carbon gases, to be included in its cutback plan.

The United States wants forest planting and other "mitigation" schemes it implements in the Third World to count against its domestically generated pollution.

The European Union has set a target of a 15 per cent cut by 2010, while Britain has said that, whatever is agreed, it will voluntarily cut emissions by 20 per cent by 2010.

Canada and America, the world's biggest emitter, have said they will only stabilise by 2010 rather than cut. America's other contentious proposal is that developing countries, including China and India, should sign up now to future cuts.

Australia, another big emitter and producer of fossil fuels, wants its emissions to rise by 18 per cent. Japan is proposing cuts of between 3.2 and 5 per cent.

On the other side are the G77 group of developing nations, and China, which are calling for cuts by rich countries of 35 per cent by 2020. They also want a compensation package to help them to clean up power station emissions. Where agreement will be found is anybody's guess.

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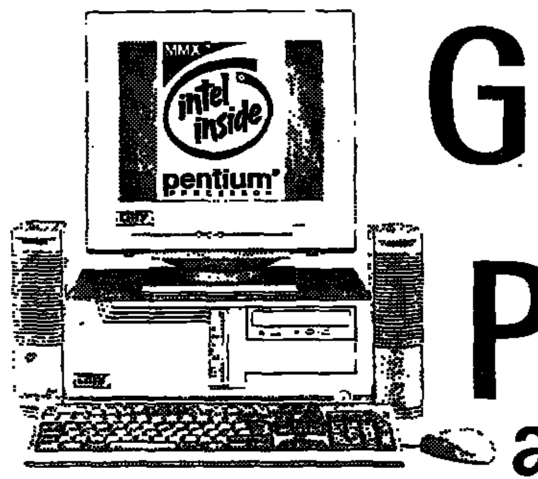

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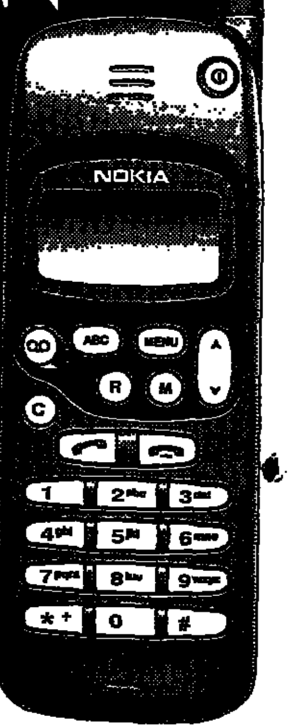

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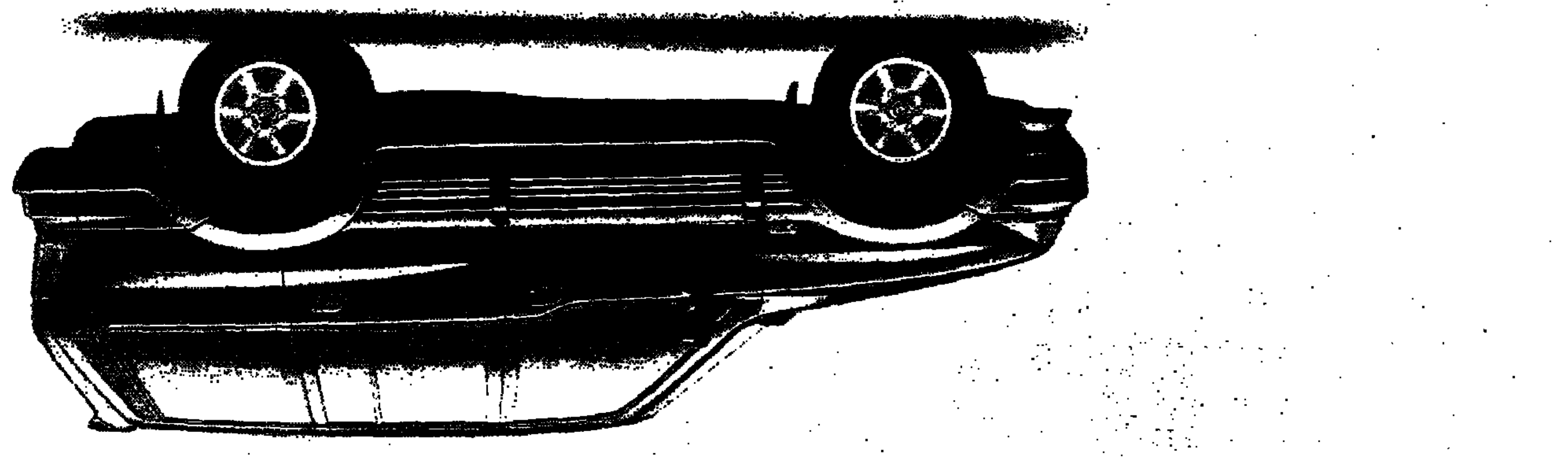

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all this.

Reflections of a Sixties siren

Joan Baez, queen of
hippy protest and
haunting songs of
tragedy and loss, is
56, in her prime
and back on tour

DARREN FLETCHER

Joan Baez did not even smoke pot in the Sixties. But she was "monumentally narcissistic — I thought the world revolved around me" and had years of therapy

"I am not on top of a mountain, and I am not under the ground," sings Joan Baez, in a song called *Who Do You Think I Am?* "I am not spilling over the edge, and I am not easily found."

She is easily found tonight: at the Royal Festival Hall, the London leg of her British tour. On Thursday I found her in Bristol, listening to operatic arias in black leggings, sweater and boots, her iron-grey hair cut short except for one long skinny plait at the back — in her magnificent prime at almost 57.

"Do I look wise for my young age?" she asks the photographer, whispering to save her voice, which still has all its crystalline purity. "That's the beauty of being legendary," she sighs. "It means something has to have lasted."

The times go on a-changin', and they leave old rockers (and folk singers) behind, unless they do one of two things: succumb to an early violent death, or re-invent themselves *to console* the baby-boom generation with jubilant comeback tours like *An Evening With Joan Baez*, playing to packed houses.

In Bristol I *sat* between two adoring male fans: one, from Stoke-on-Trent, was following her to every single concert, including Belfast and Dublin next week. The grizzled bloke on my right had come "for old times' sake" and having been "inside" himself, he longed to hear her sing "Show me the prison . . .", which she did. The crowd wanted *Joe Hill* — Tony Benn's favourite — and called out for her to play anything by Bobby ("Bobby who?" says Baez, launching into *Don't Think Twice It's All Right*). There is a complicity with her audience.

But her show hangs on her new songs — from her latest Grapevine CD, *Back From Danger* — and these are different: elliptical, understated, moving. One sad song about a parting couple has the haunting lines: "First we forgot where we planted those bulbs last year. Then we forgot we had planted at all." I've played this CD on a loop all week, and I haven't done that since *Graceland*. "I think these songs have done the magic for me," Joan says.

"The funny thing about being a legend is that you're a legend for ever," *she says,* "and I didn't realise that in order to combat that, I had to become current with the music of now."

About a decade ago she had what she refers to as a "wake-up call" one morning at 2am. Her record sales had slumped. She had become fossilised, and (her word) mediocre. "I suddenly realised that while I had kept two steps ahead politically, I was fully two steps behind musically." So she found herself a manager, Mark Spector, who brought her a set of new young songwriters who revere her and can construct an intelligent, dramatic contemporary song.

"I am not about *We Shall Overcome*. The Sixties have passed. I don't regret *We Shall Overcome*. I am proud of all that, and what I did, but I've stopped so many interviewers in their tracks — 'I'm dying of boredom here' — if they only want to talk about the great old days. They weren't so great for me: I worked very, very hard and I was very, very serious. I didn't know how to have fun. Now it's a pleasure to go on stage." This is clear: there is laughter and wit, with all these musicians half her age around her.

Unexpectedly, I found Joan Baez senior, her Scottish mother, sitting outside her daughter's dressing-room: a trim octogenarian with the same cheekbones as her daughter and the residue of an Edinburgh accent. She'd just tapped out an e-mail to wish Joan's dad, at home in California, a happy Thanksgiving. *She accompanies Joan all over* — "She's a bus rat. She loves to travel" — she was at Woodstock and she even went to jail with her daughter (for withholding taxes during the Vietnam war).

During her concert, Joan junior made Joan senior stand up in the stalls, and called, "Hi mom! Thanks for borning me. I know I haven't been easy."

"My mother is just all heart. Much younger in spirit than my father," Joan says. Albert Baez was professor of physics at Stanford University in her Palo Alto childhood. But he also worked for Unesco and took his family to Mexico and Baghdad. And that's where Joan's political awareness came from. She refused to take part in an air-raid drill at school (when the Russians were thought to be coming any minute).

"When my father went to MIT [the Massachusetts Institute of Technology], we moved to Cambridge. I had no idea what to do with my life. It was clear that there was not an academic sinew in my body. My unsuspecting father took me into the coffee shops of Boston, with their banjo players and folk balladeers and blue-grass."

Here she picked up songs, memorising them at midnight (by day she had a job teaching people to ride Vespa scooters) and *falling* asleep with her guitar on her chest. "I sang for my own comfort because I was lonely and people *liked to hear me and it was a route* to social activity."

She is in awe of the person she was at 19. Stardom happened fast; she was invited to Newport in 1959 by Odetta (and made the cover of *Time* magazine) just as she in turn invited Bob Dylan on stage with her at Newport in 1963 — and you know the rest.

What she has now is discipline and routines. Her parents and two sisters live near by, near their childhood home in Palo Alto. But it is her elder sister who lives in the mountains like a gypsy, growing herbs and healing people and building houses from mud. Joan, *by contrast, lives the more conventional* life: when not performing she rises at 5.30am and walks her dogs Fargo and Dakota, "and do my *stretching* exercises and all that healthy stuff, and goats and chickens and homespun things".

Valerie Grove

Does she ever get disillusioned about misplaced political idealism, eg, when hearing about Winnie Mandela? "For me the key to not being disillusioned with the universe was not being illusioned with the human race in the first place.

"I was strict about who my heroes were. Everyone's human and everyone is scathed. People turn out to have shortcomings. Only Nelson Mandela and Vaclav Havel seem unscathed. We now know Gandhi wasn't very nice to his wife, and Luther King drank too much . . . I remember being with Dr King once when he'd had too much to drink and I'd been in bed with one of his cohorts, and he said, 'Now you know I'm not a saint', and I said 'Now you know I'm not the Madonna . . .'"

She was brought up to be a Quaker pacifist like her father. "At their best, Quakers are dyed-in-the-wool radicals and that's the part I like. What I do keep of the Quaker way is the silence. It's a kind of meditation. To find where I am in the great big world."

She says her son Gabriel (from her brief marriage to David Harris, *a draft resistance leader*) was disillusioned to discover she had not even smoked pot in the 1960s: "Mother, you hypocrite." So how *did she react when he started?* "I was unhappy about it. Now he's reached a point in his life when he's OK, and it wouldn't bother me if he *took out a joint and had a smoke.*" She produces snapshots of a handsome lad with a fine chest of hair. "And his heart is as lovely as his face. He is into Chinese healing and African drumming."

She recently took Gabe back to the château in Normandy where she once lived with "the Count", Denis de Kergoley of Médecins sans Frontières. "I'm now making up for the fact that I was MIA, missing in action, for much of Gabe's childhood, and now we have a chance to be friends." Having managed to avoid the usual pitfalls of the music business — drinking and drugs and sociopathic behaviour — she did have panic attacks, phobias and years of therapy. Fame had spoiled her.

She has said — and her 1987 autobiography confirmed — that she was "monumentally narcissistic". "That's true. An intelligent woman reviewed my book in *The New York Times* and referred to my 'pre-Copernican view of myself'. I thought the world revolved around me, hah!" she laughs. "But I don't feel in the least concerned about my status in the entertainment world. I was always a counterculture figure. *It just happened that in the Sixties* the counterculture became the epicentre."

She speaks dismissively of "the *way people throw around the word* 'artist' now, referring to some mediocre performer propped up by a bunch of lights and drum machines".

To my consternation I realise we have talked for an hour and the name of B— D— has not been mentioned once. "Good. Great!" said Joan, getting ready to go on stage. For her finale she improvised to Simon and Garfunkel's *The Boxer*: "The years are rolling by . . . and I am ageing well", and basked, not too narcissistically, in tumultuous applause.

American lord of the dance isn't done with surprises

MUSIC lovers have been singing the praises of this year's Belfast Festival. Now it is the turn of dance lovers to jump for joy, for on Thursday night the revitalised festival scored a real coup: the British premiere of Merce Cunningham's *Ocean*. This is a work so ambitious in its undertaking and so intoxicating in its effect as to *make most modern dance look* puny by comparison.

Ocean was conceived by Cunningham and John Cage, his lifelong musical collaborator, shortly before the composer's death in 1992. The two were inspired by a suggestion that, had he lived, James Joyce would have written a novel about water and the ocean. It was Cage's idea to present the dance in a circular space with the 15 dancers surrounded by the audience, who are *in turn surrounded* by 112 musicians (here members of the Queen's University Symphony Orchestra), playing without a conductor high up in the auditorium. The idea, according to Cunningham, is that the audience soaks in a bath of sound.

DANCE

Merce Cunningham
Belfast Festival

*Cage died before he could com*pose the score; it was left to Andrew Culver to write the music using Cage's ideas. Culver produced a *score that teeters on the edge of self*-destructive abandon while maintaining an innate musicality. David Tudor, meanwhile, provided a companion electronic score which mixes underwater sounds — whales, ice, sonar and ships — in a percolating marine wilderness.

Only a space as exciting and versatile as Belfast's Waterfront Hall could do justice to Cunningham's audacious conception. He has created 90 minutes of concentrated abstract dance that claims no emotional resonance, no dramatic underpinning and no structural logic. Just pure unadulterated dance performed by dancers whose fearsome muscular control is matched by minds of blazing clarity.

Although the movement unfolds in the round, one is never aware of the lack of fixed perspectives. And remarkably, every member of the audience can believe he or she is *constantly getting the best view, so* completely does the choreography encompass the entire body, back and front.

As always *these days, the steps* and the way they are sequenced are devised with the aid of a computer — Cunningham loves random choice. But it is tempting to read into them a deliberate imagery: in the way limbs feel weighted by the resistance of water; how a current seems to motivate the dancers like surfers riding a big wave; or in the way the surface calm conceals a deeper turbulence. He may be 78, but the grand old man of American dance isn't done surprising us yet.

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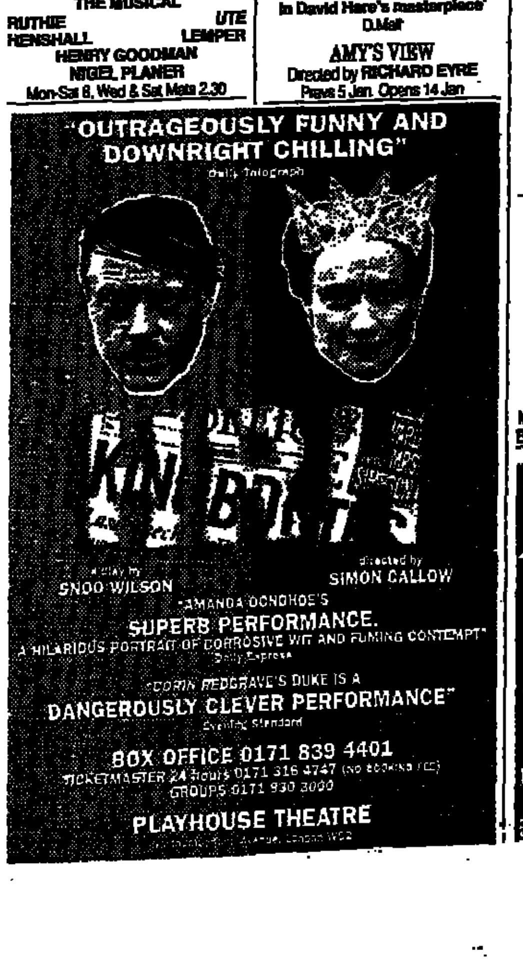

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هكذا من الاصل

The truth behind the beastly tales

Simon Barnes on the animals that stalk the mind's wilderness

Once again the Beast of Bodmin raises its comely head. Or maybe it doesn't. Still, this week has brought us yet another photograph of the legendary cat, and a jolly beast-like snap it is, too. But it matters little whether our modern-day Grimalkin is, or is not, lurking in the West Country wilds. It softfoots its way unchallenged across the minds of the English people.

Unlike the Africans, who inhabit a darker continent, who see lions and elephant and hippopatami aplenty, we are a bit short of real monsters. That is why we are so captivated by beastly tales. Imaginary animals lurk in the darker wildernesses of our minds.

There is a whole science — I use the term loosely — dedicated to them. These are beasts that a Roman Catholic priest — who always comes into it, for some reason — swears he has seen. But for us more ordinary mortals, they seem always to exist just a fraction beyond the focus of the longest lens. They live and breathe and have their being just a tantalising inch away from outright proof. Study of these animals is called cryptozoology.

The Loch Ness Monster, Bigfoot, the Abominable Snowman: these are always considered to be leviathans that time forgot. The Loch Ness Monster is (or is not) a plesiosaur that survived the great cretaceous extinction; the others are great apes, missing links that somehow leapt clear when the grim reaper of extinction swung his scythe.

Man had a natural fear of the natural world

Other cryptic monsters have a more prosaic background. My early journalistic days, tedious enough in all conscience, on the *Surrey Mirror* were occasionally enlivened by tales of the Surrey Puma. A pet rabbit had only to be nibbled by a fox or a dog and the whole story could be gleefully resurrected again.

Does the puma still stalk around Reigate and Redhill? If so, it is certainly most venerable by now. But perhaps it has sired a dynasty of pumas, living their secret lives, ever just a torchbeam-length away from a clear sighting.

There is always a feasible explanation for such mysteries: usually an escape from a zoo or the menagerie of some eccentric collector. Or perhaps they are animals deliberately released by unscrupulous liberators — the guerrilla wing of the RSPCA, perhaps.

The Beast of Bodmin is now revealed in a fairly convincing photograph as, at the very least, an awfully large pussycat — probably a puma. There are apparently (or allegedly) a pair. Footprints have been found in china clay pits that give "every indication" of a puma and a cub. The critters are breeding out there! Cue *Jurassic Park* music.

Well, maybe they are. We certainly want to believe it. At least the souvenir touts do. A home-grown monster is great for trade in T-shirts and mugs and dishcloths and pens. But our desire to believe goes farther than that.

Belief in something monstrous out there, something big and hairy and razor-fanged, goes deep into our human race-memories — into atavistic instincts kept alive in fairy tale. The story of Little Red Riding Hood may seem a merry tale, but once it was a nightmare. Not so very many millennia ago, the forests really were dangerous. Little boys really did cry wolf. Little girls really might meet families of bears. People got killed out there.

Now, in the area around Bodmin Moor, reactions range from incredulity through rather edgy facetiousness to complete and touching faith. This sort of wild beast comes to us in the form of fiction, imagination, folk-tale and maybe the occasional escape. And we respond to them as a strange, ungovernable form of nostalgia: an involuntary memory of times we never knew, times when the balance of power of life on earth was utterly different.

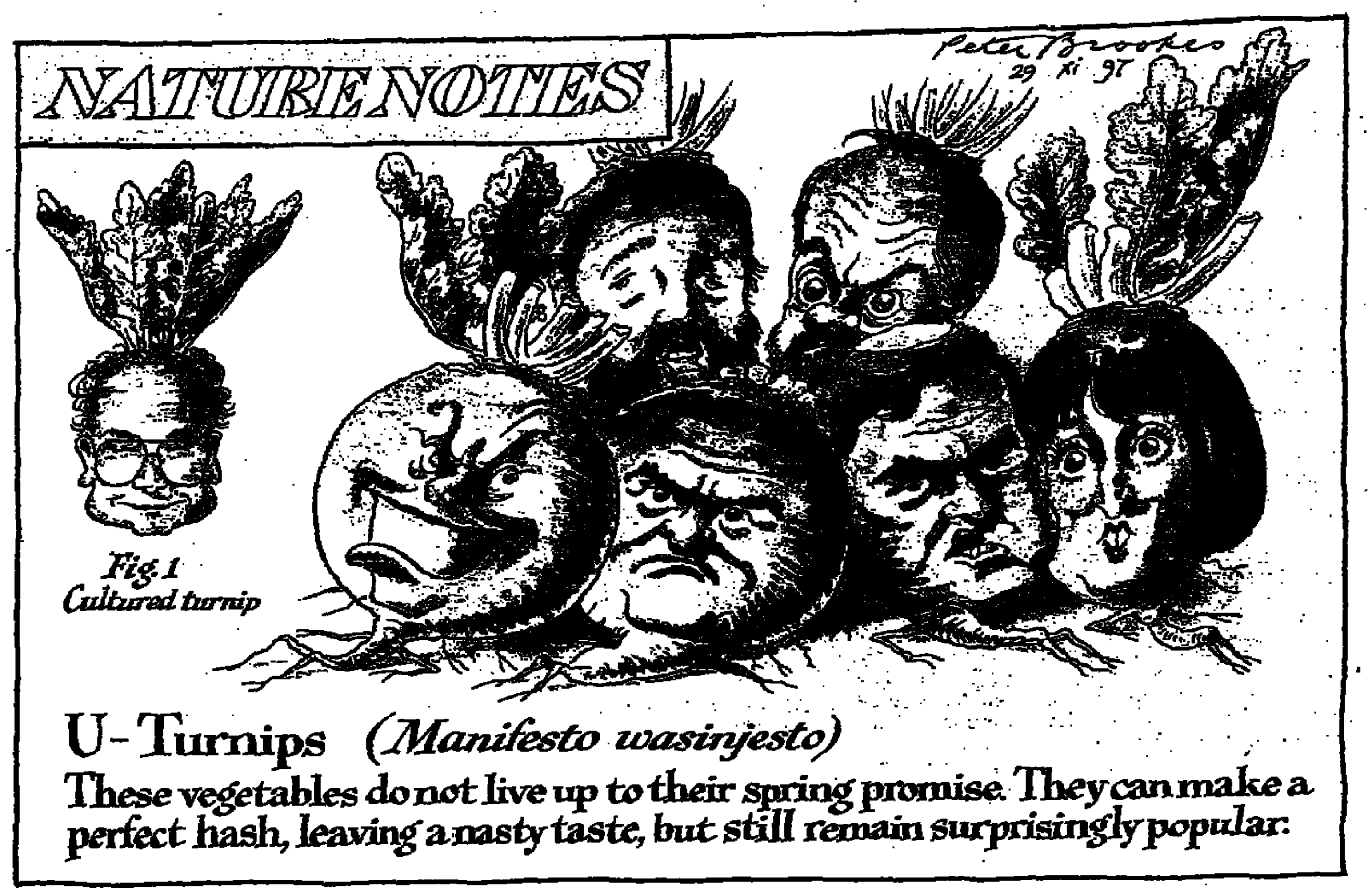
Once people lived in a state of siege, in islands of civilisation surrounded by oceans of wilderness. And in the wilderness were beasts that could bite. Now our wilderness survives only in islands: besieged patches of green threatened by lapping oceans of civilisation.

Our ancestors had a natural fear of wilderness and a natural fear of the natural world. We are still in the grip of this fear. Perhaps that is why the pace of destruction of the natural world continues unabated: our technology is 21st century, but part of our minds is always running 5,000 years off the pace.

Cryptozoology is an instructive subject, but mainly for what it tells us about the human mind: always half in love with, half in deadly fear of the wild. But, as a matter of fact, I can tell you about creatures ten times as weird as the Loch Ness Monster and the Beast of Bodmin simply by stretching out a hand to my bookshelves.

I am compiling a bestiary, you see: a bestiary of endangered animals. Real ones: beasts whose current existence is not in doubt, although their future existence is. These include such delights as the Kerry slug, the St Helena giant earwig, the pygmy hog-sucking louse and the Iowa Pleistocene snail.

These are all genuine creatures but all genuinely threatened with extinction. Moral: the natural world is not, after all, weirder than we imagine. It is weirder than we *can* imagine.


NATURE NOTES
Peter Brookes 29 xi 97
Fig. 1
Cultured turnip
U-Turnips (Manifesto wasinjesto)
These vegetables do not live up to their spring promise. They can make a perfect hash, leaving a nasty taste, but still remain surprisingly popular.

Pulp fact for the prurient

Though Earl Spencer is a private citizen, his infelicities inflame public interest. We deal rough justice, but there is no escape

Simon Jenkins

The marital affairs of Earl Spencer, currently before a court in South Africa, are of no conceivable public interest to Britain. The custodian of the Spencer millions is not running for public office and holds no professional trust. He receives no public funds. The state of his marriage, the extent of his wealth, the glamour of his women, the quantity (or quality) of his infidelities in no way impinge on public policy.

No law is at issue in his case, no wider principle in need of public debate. Divorce court proceedings are conducted in public only on the archaic and often cruel grounds that marriage breakdown is a communal, not a private affair. But even a divorce should not involve the sacrifice of every right to privacy.

Earl Spencer is a private citizen who has emphatically refused to consent to intrusion on his affairs. Other than what is said in a courtroom, he is entitled to the protection of the code of practice laid down by the Press Complaints Commission. No "public interest" defence applies.

I must, of course, be joking. "No public interest?" cries the public with one voice. What about the massive interest of the public? Go on, give us another tale of the love life of the sexy earl. Read out another salacious detail about the umpteenth model. Here is a real-life nobleman, brother of the saintly Diana, ensnared by an entire regiment of alimony-sex-and-shopping harridans. All they wanted was to nab a title and grab some cash — "just a little, tiny cheque" said one this week — and then he treats them badly. The man is clearly a cad. The world loves to see such men brought low. No public interest? Pull the other one.

I had better start again. Readers of this newspaper will have noted a story filling most of page five of Wednesday's issue. The headline was "Holiday alone for lawyer who fled bride and gloom". A Londoner named Tasos Michael had met Nicole Contos, the daughter of a New York banana tycoon, on a Mediterranean beach. Love blossomed and a marriage was arranged. Just before the ceremony, the groom panicked and fled alone to the Tahitian hotel which he had intended for their honeymoon.

The mortified Miss Contos was not to be outsnubbed. She invited the wedding guests to a slap-up reception, an event that did little to enhance the good name of London lawyer/fiancés. Neither Miss Contos nor Mr Michael were going to sacrifice spending commitments merely for want of a wedding. She has duly become Saint Joan of the chat shows in America's gender war. He is collecting his thoughts in Tahiti and trying to avoid the press. If there is one thing the world cannot tolerate, it is a cancelled wedding.

These are all private people. Neither Earl Spencer nor Mr Michael sought publicity for their private lives, indeed both struggled to avoid it. Earl Spencer "put himself forward" on the issue of privacy in his funeral oration on Diana. I disagreed with what he said. But nothing there jeopardised his ostensible rights under Britain's privacy regulation. True, he also proffered himself as protector of the heir to the throne. According to his wife's publicists, his domestic arrangements hardly make him ideal to fill that role. All in all, he may be an odd fish, unappealing except to a narrow class of entrepreneurial females. But lack of charm should not expunge his right to natural justice.

The breakdown in their personal relationships has meant both Earl Spencer and Mr Michael being subjected to public obloquy, punished beyond all sense of proportion. Given the publicity they have experienced, I doubt if any woman has an ounce of sympathy for either of them.

The only place for such men is in the wrong. No ruination, no bankruptcy, no slur on their good name is too much. Mr Michael should have gone to the altar. Earl Spencer should have paid up like a man. Any punishment fits the crime, with a willing media acting as judge, jury and executioner. Husbands, wives, children, all are swept up and delivered to the gallows, to a gallery of cheering women.

What business is this of ours? All broken marriages are tragic, but the shades of guilt are peculiarly unsuited to a court of law, let alone to the cruder jury of the press. If the courts must be involved, I do not see what public interest is served by them sitting in open session, certainly no interest that outweighs the harm to the parties and their children. If "reporting restrictions" can apply in cases of child crime and rape, why not in matrimonial litigation, especially where children are involved? Were these men victims of physical injury from a mob, the law would offer them protection. To be the victim of mob ridicule under court privilege leaves them defenceless.

Yet to assert a right to privacy is not the same as formulating its enforcement. Court procedure aside, nobody has found a way of doing this. Especially for those already famous, the conditions are too hard to define. In Earl Spencer's case, many would still consider him fair game given the terms of his funeral oration. It is one thing to assert that people must be allowed to take a stance on privacy without thereby sacrificing any right to it themselves. It is another to imagine a court convicting a newspaper presenting a "public interest" defence, when the plaintiff is rich, well-known, spoke at Diana's funeral and leads what many would consider to be a less than blameless private life. It is even harder to define the rights of a husband in such a case, when the wife chooses to breach his privacy as a tactical weapon both in and out of court.

As Earl Spencer has been forced to admit, even South Africa's stringent privacy laws are no defence against the media equivalent of a tornado. Like all privacy laws, South Africa's are fine when dormant and useless when put to the test. The Spencer story is simply too big for the law to handle. All restraint, whether by law or self-regulation, is swept aside by voracious reader appetite. The "public interest" defence for intrusion is hopelessly ambiguous. It is a shoe that can be stretched to fit any foot.

The private infelicity of others is of utter public fascination. All other excuses for intrusion are humbug. Pulp fiction will appease this fascination, but when pulp fact is on offer, there is joy in Heaven and Fleet Street.

England has no word for *Schadenfreude*, but it certainly has a yen for it. How delicious it is to see the pain of others. Affairs of the heart turned sour are worth a dozen sleaze rows or Euro-debates or fox-hunting bans. Here are human anguish, courage, viciousness and love paraded before us, and in real time. A high-profile divorce is prize fighting for romantics. Damn the press for its intrusiveness, cries the public, as it pours into the shop to buy every scrap of intrusive news.

Joseph Conrad wrote that no man has come of age until life has visited him with a monstrous practical joke. The flippancy was aimed at a darker truth. There is something of Lord Jim in both Mr Michael and Earl Spencer. Mr Michael vanished to distant parts after having an onrush of wisdom, for which no one will give him credit. Lord Spencer vanished despite being born to perk and privilege, apparently to start a new life. Both are victims of a fame they never sought. Yet such people can draw down only so much sympathy.

They are best seen as victims of accident, caught at random in the roving spotlight of celebrity. They then become mirrors which we hold up to our faces, either to understand ourselves better or, at worst, to make ourselves feel good. Alexander Pope understood the paradox of self-righteousness amid disaster. His tarnished humanity was "Sole judge of truth, in endless error hurl'd/ The glory, jest, and riddle of the world." Marriage is a microcosm of such equivocal glory. The proper study of mankind is married man.

Each week offers fresh material for this study. The justice is rough on persons known or unknown. But there is no escape. If fame is an accident, it must be treated as a joke in bad taste. We must laugh in its face. If Earl Spencer cannot take a joke, he should not have married the woman in question.

Philip Howard

■ Fond farewell to a hero and a pedant

The couple marching westward down Piccadilly were impeccably turned out. He in Homburg and subfusc overcoat with furled umbrella hooked over his arm. She in black fur hat with diamond regimental badge of the Mutton Lancers. I fell in beside them and said: "You must be marching for Shan Hackett. Mind if I join you?" The eminent general peered through the gloom at my Black Watch tie and asked: "Were you in his regiment?" But I was one of Hackett's friends from the peccably turned out world of hackery.

Sir John Hackett's memorial service was one of the last for what in *Forty Years On* Alan Bennett called "The Breed", and whom mischievous obituarists describe as "the Moustaches": genuine heroes. But Shan was a rarer breed than that. He was a scholar-general. Soldier poets are common, as seen in this week's film *Regeneration*. But those are other ranks or junior officers.

Scholar-generals come once a century and are regarded with suspicion by Whitehall. Archie Wavell was removed from North Africa by Churchill, but as Viceroy he laid the foundations for Independence for which Mountbatten claimed the credit. Philip Sidney was cut off at Zutphen, having discarded leg armour when he found that a comrade-in-arms had neglected to wear any. Julius Caesar is remembered more for his commentaries than his conquests.

So Shan's service was an unusual mixture. It was both pukka and intellectual. There were more field marshals than one would dare to shake a swagger stick at, and brigadiers in razor-creased suits acted as ushers. But the words were read by eminent professors in smoking-room suits and the choir came from King's College London in student jeans.

I met Shan when he wrote to me about solecisms in *The Times*. I wrote back unusually briskly on the subject of "gay" as an adjective or noun applied to a homosexual, pointing out that the word had shady sexual roots from its origins. And I rounded off, impertinently, telling him that he ran some risk of becoming a linguistic curmudgeon.

From that letter we became friends. For Shan was that white unicorn of language, a broad-minded pedant. He was also no mean classicist. His presidential address to the Classical Association, treating the *Iliad* as if it were a modern campaign, was a *tour de force*. He witnessed the origin of the slang "to swan around". For he was open to the young and their language, which was why there was no student rebellion at King's 30 years ago. And after we had saluted the last scholar-general, the old and the bold, the gowns and the towns marched to the Cavalry and Guards Club to toast him in flowing champagne. And if ever tempted to be unduly permissive or less than precise about language, I shall remember my dear liberal pedant and simplify.

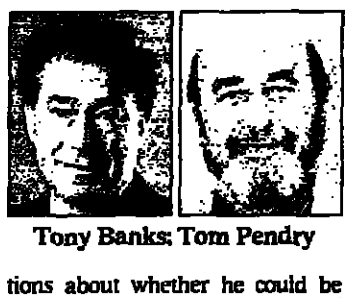
THE TIMES DIARY

JASPER GERARD

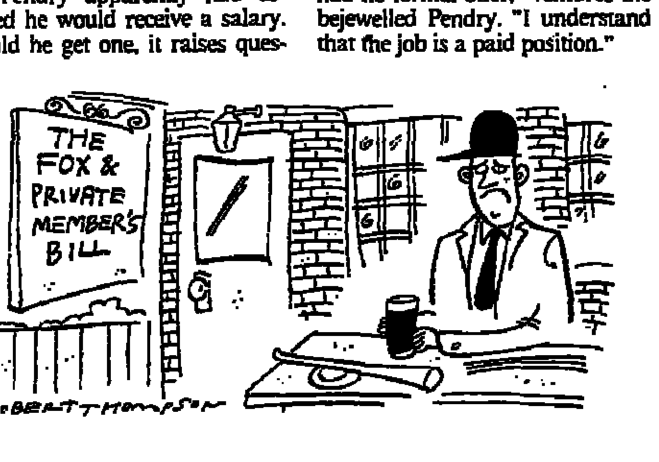
Own goal

A LABOUR MP looks set to take a new job that would put him under pressure to resign from the House of Commons. Tom Pendry is expected to be appointed as head of the Football Trust, for which he would be paid partly out of public funds. Under parliamentary rules, ministers are the only MPs allowed to be remunerated from the public purse. Tony Blair has pushed Pendry for the job after passing him over for Sports Minister in favour of Tony Banks. Pendry, who remains bitter at his failure to gain the portfolio last May after having been sports spokesman, will be able to establish his own power base to compete with Banks. The Football Trust is to be given £5 million from the lottery — which Tories will insist is public money. The chairman, Lord Aberdare, a former Tory minister, is stepping down. Richard Faulkner, his deputy, was to be offered the job by trustees.

But Whitehall has intervened to push for Pendry. The appointment is now awaiting the endorsement of Banks, who prefers Faulkner. But I gather that he has been overruled by Blair. The job was to be unpaid, but Pendry apparently had assumed he would receive a salary. Should he get one, it raises questions about whether he could be deemed to be holding an "office of profit under the Crown". "I have had no formal offer," ventures the bejewelled Pendry. "I understand that the job is a paid position."



Tony Banks; Tom Pendry


THE FOX & PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL
ROBERT THOMPSON

● *OASIS are to be invited to perform at the Millennium Dome. Tony Blair's favourite rockers are being wooed by Peter Mandelson, a friend of Alan McGee, the Gallagher brothers' record company boss. This could solve a crisis, as little has been organised by way of nocturnal entertainment. I have just one question: by 2000, will Oasis be starring as buskers at the new Greenwich Underground?*

Prickly visitor

THE Queen has just eaten the first pineapple to be grown here since the 18th century. The Smooth Cayenne was presented at Buckingham Palace on Thursday night from the Lost Gardens of Heligan — a revivalist patch down in Cornwall. Her Majesty ate the fruit instead of pudding that night. It was delivered in a taxi by Tim Smit, chief pineapple-tender. "We found the shrub in South Africa and grew it in 100 tons of hot manure in our 18th-century pineapple pits," he says proudly. "Prince Charles visited in June and suggested that his mother might like one." So how come Hanoverian sorts could grow them? "They used to keep boys up all night to swish pineapples around in steaming manure." Delicious, I am sure.

The Queen: pineapple meal

OLD TIMES
"It is not miners who should face the sack, but ministers who betrayed them." Robin Cook in 1993, on Michael Heseltine's energy policy. This week, Labour backbenchers accused the Government of failing to protect 5,000 threatened jobs in the industry.

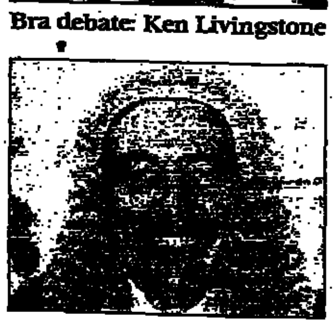
● *AFTER Lord Irvine of Lairg's department shelled out a reported £60,000 for wallpaper, the Lord Chancellor has turned to City headhunters Price Waterhouse to find a new Permanent Secretary. Facing competition for the £125,000-a-year post has done little to win him the fab bloke of the year award from civil servants — particularly as the need for legal qualifications is to be waived.*

Seedy plans

THE SPIRIT of Nazism will forever pervade the Reichstag — thanks, partly, to Sir Norman Foster. The British architect, giving the building an MoT so it can house the new German parliament, is studying the papers of the architect Albert Speer, a particular favourite of Adolf Hitler. Speer conducted extensive geotechnical surveys for foundations on which to build halls of the people, victory arches, grand avenues, stuff to please Adolf. Now Foster is cribbing his notes. "Speer discussed with a German engineer how to make parliament as energy-efficient as possible," I am told. Among the ideas being chewed over? Powering the Reichstag by rapeseed oil.

NEW TIMES
CHRISTMAS spirit. Shoppers passing the windows of the Dickins & Jones department store in London will be treated to the compelling sight of female models in evening dress — each holding a goodwill Kalashnikov rifle encrusted with tiny glittering mirrors.

Bra debate: Ken Livingstone



Magazine publisher Fortier; Labour MP Marshall-Andrews

PARTY TIME
HAVING chewed over the quality of parliamentary debate at the *Spectator* awards at the Savoy last week, lunchtime conversation turned, naturally, to bras. Ken Livingstone raised the matter with Kimberly Fortier, the magazine's publisher. And she suggests that the Left's champion recommended the Queen's brassiere manufacturer (Rigby & Peller, apparently). The MP offers a different slant. "I would only recommend M&S, definitely," he ventures.

Top table conversation was more reflective. Lord Callaghan of Cardiff said: "Sitting on the terrace of the Commons on an afternoon last summer with the PM, he said that he had never met Harold Wilson. I was even more shocked when the Conservatives elected a leader younger than my grandson." Later I stumbled across the marvellous Bob Marshall-Andrews, raffish QC and Labour MP, slurping from a silver salver. He suggested an excellent dictum for political survival. "If you manage to keep your head while all around are losing theirs, then you have seriously failed to grasp the gravity of the situation."

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Philip Howard

■ Fond farewell to a hero and a pedant

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GREEN PIQUE

The EU should get off its high horse at the climate conference

Five years ago at the Rio de Janeiro "Earth summit", governments agreed that, for all the multiple disagreements about its extent and nature, global warming was a sufficiently serious planetary risk to warrant an international convention to limit climate change. All countries agreed to report on their emissions of the "greenhouse gases", notably carbon dioxide, which trap heat in the atmosphere; and the industrialised countries, which account for 70 per cent of emissions, also agreed on a voluntary basis to make a start on cutting their CO_2 emissions. No country was willing to commit itself to legally binding targets.

The international debate since then has become decidedly heated — not least because Rio divided the world into the "Annexe 1" industrialised countries which were to cut emissions and the rest, which successfully argued that to do so would unfairly inhibit their economic growth. Climate change has thus become hostage to all the destructive habits of north-south diplomacy. But the diplomats have inched forward. Two years ago in Berlin, the Annexe 1 countries agreed to legally binding limits on future emissions, although they deferred a decision to 1997.

That deadline has now arrived; but the 169 governments which descend on Kyoto this Monday are bitterly divided about what target to set, by when, and even about who should sign up to it. The European Union has taken a maximalist position which would reduce the industrialised world's emissions to 85 per cent of 1990 levels by 2010. America, pointing out that most EU countries will not even meet the Rio goal of stabilising CO_2 emissions at 1990 levels by 2000, says that this is simply not credible. The EU is derisive of America's own offer, which goes no further than stabilising at 1990 levels by around 2012. America further insists that there will be no deal if the developing countries continue to be given a "free ride". Deadlock is possible.

The EU should get off its high horse, fast. What matters at Kyoto is not so much the precise target that is set — this can always be toughened in future negotiations — but the legal precedent. There are serious arguments about how much needs to be done, how soon, and even the US target would represent a cut of 30 per cent on what its emissions would otherwise be by 2012. A modest target is better than none at all. Equally, America should accept that the West has a responsibility to set the pace.

The one thing that would represent an unacceptable risk is delay. This is because emissions in the developing countries are rising fast; they have gone up in the past five years by between 25 per cent and 50 per cent in India, China, Indonesia and South Korea. The Americans have a point. But there is no prospect of the wider bargain that is needed if the West, as today's principal polluter, cannot agree now to legal limits.

Beyond Kyoto, governments should think hard about methods, not just targets. Many of the actions required if CO_2 output is to be reduced make good economic as well as environmental sense. It would benefit Germany to cut its coal subsidies, Britain to insulate its houses better and America to promote fuel-efficient cars. But others will be very expensive.

So the next step is to look at trade-offs of two kinds. The first should be to help developing countries with technology that would help fuel-efficient growth. The second could, as America has urged, be to develop a trade in emissions "permits". The idea would be for countries where emissions can be cut more cheaply to sell emission rights to others where they would cost more. Since climate knows no boundaries, what matters is overall transmissions, and this could cut costs of CO_2 reductions in the developed world by up to 40 per cent. Poorer countries would make gains, in return, in technology and efficiency. Last month, the US signed what could be a model deal of this kind with Argentina. Britain, Germany and the US have begun drafting trading rules and a few key future polluters, such as India, have expressed cautious interest. But this is delicate bargaining territory. Deadlock at Kyoto would end the prospects of such trade-offs. The EU goes to Kyoto clothed in righteousness. It is more important to return with a deal than with a glow of virtue unrequited.

FALSE TRAIL

The Government's options after the anti-hunting vote

After the relative calm of Bosnia, Tony Blair has to consider his options in the harsher light of the House of Commons vote on hunting. Michael Foster's Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill received a massive 260-vote majority. As matters stand, this legislation will probably not make further progress during this session of Parliament. That is not, though, certain. Mr Blair has been presented with a dilemma, a potential opportunity and a possible danger.

There will be the temptation for the Prime Minister to acknowledge the "will of the people". The anti-hunting cause could be co-opted and introduced as an amendment to a Criminal Justice Bill. This might have many tactical advantages. The Government would receive direct credit for the abolition measure. It would offer radicalism of a sort but without unfortunate public expenditure consequences. A substantial section of the electorate would be impressed. Furthermore, this might appease dozens of increasingly restless Labour backbench members.

Yet, the most significant incentive would be of an entirely different nature. Those who want to move swiftly against the House of Lords have sensed this is also their moment. The heriditary peers could be drawn into a showdown on this issue. Nothing would undermine the case for retaining their lordships in their current form more than a reactionary struggle on behalf of an unloved minority. The ermine and the fox might both be dealt with in one sitting. This would prompt further plaudits still from the same potential rebels who could otherwise oppose Mr Blair on social security questions.

There is also, however, the danger of trying to be too clever. There are substantial risks in this approach that should not be underestimated. Mr Blair's cherished reputation as a "fairly straight sort of guy" would be damaged by a shift that so smacked of opportunism. To turn a Criminal Justice Bill — concerned with teenage tearaways — into a conduit for a completely different subject would be a juvenile offence of Jack Straw's making. A proposal that should attract all-party support would become a battlefield.

The House of Lords might not play the losing role that has been scripted. Once Mr Blair had declared war, their present self-restraint — on devolution and the incorporation of the European Convention — could disappear very swiftly. It is possible that a Criminal Justice Bill that included an anti-hunting measure might be lost in the Upper House — and with a majority of life peers against it. If so, the Prime Minister would find his fox shot to pieces. Even if that did not occur, two can play at populist posturing. The Conservatives in the Lords could vote down the welfare reforms that had split the Labour Party. A *de facto* alliance between Viscount Cranborne and Dennis Skinner might be improbable but it would embarrass the Government.

The Prime Minister should instead contemplate the lessons of Bosnia: diplomacy and negotiation can be preferable to outright conflict. The Government should initiate a Countryside Commission to examine every aspect of field sports including foxhunting. This would report in time to allow for another debate and vote — a more informed one on all sides — during this Parliament. The fate of the fox must be determined on its merits. It should not be used as a trap for the heriditary peerage.

THE ENGLISH FOOL

and other delights of the new old cooking

In most countries, the culinary arts are an essential and popular component of national heritage. Indeed, France rarely misses an opportunity, in myth as in braggadocio, to extol its incomparable cuisine. How different from this place across the Channel. English food has been the butt of jokes for so long that most people have forgotten there ever existed a tradition of excellence here. Yet fashion has rediscovered ancient receipts that once fed the corpulent frames of yeomen and harnessed the fruits of the land in delicious abundance. English fare is the coming cookery trend.

The words alone tease the senses and set the mouth watering: pies and game, haunches and saddles, stews, crumble, fools and puddings. The list suggests foods that are uncomplicated but substantial, dishes that use native ingredients to create the flavours of the English countryside. They conjure up the banqueting of Tudor courts, feasting in medieval monasteries and great palace kitchens where oxen, venison and boar were roasted in profusion.

Old recipe books give vital clues to this lost English culture (Scotland and Ireland naturally have different gastronomic traditions). They are filled with native garnishes that are a far cry from the tarragon and corriander accessories of today's ubiquitous Euro-Med cuisine: prunes and honey, marzipan and currants, butter, wine, salt and mead. The dinners were vast servings of meats and game, fatty broths and elaborately decorated cakes. In damp monasteries and draughty halls our forebears needed a huge intake of calories to keep them warm.

Consider what now passes for new British cuisine: it is, in truth, a ragbag of all the dishes of the world, with a pinch of curry, a sprig of basil and a clove of garlic. Very little of this harks back to early cookery books or the magnificent Mrs Beeton. Yet among today's televison cooks there are again some long-forgotten offerings. The Two Fat Ladies, especially, delight in old-fashioned recipes that recall the days when calories were uncountable: and their figures lend weight to this solid tradition.

Other countries, too, are rediscovering the ancestral secrets, before food was fast or prepackaged. Italy is intrigued by the recreation, in print and imagination, of Garguantuan medieval banquets. France is mounting a spirited defence against new, quick dishes that dispense with sauces and tradition. Britain has furthest to go. But there is a fine feast at the end of the quest.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Defence business tactics 'not smart'

From Mr Tony Purton

Sir, Earlier this month the Defence Secretary, George Robertson, invited British defence firms to form a "smart procurement partnership" with his Chief of Defence Procurement, to introduce "modern business methods to solve our deep-seated procurement problems".

In my experience, most of the deep-seated problems in British defence procurement stem from British industry's inability to honour contractual commitments — eg, the Challenger II tank — and MoD's propensity to let them get away with it.

One wonders how far this trend will develop. Can we look forward to the Home Secretary engaging the leaders of Britain's organised crime syndicates to help him review police crime-prevention procedures — "partners in crime"?

In 1980, the chief executive of one of Britain's largest defence companies proposed to the then Defence Secretary that the crippling bureaucracy of formal defence procurement could be swept aside simply by telling each major British defence contractor what his share of the defence budget would be each year, leaving it to the companies to deliver weapons to that value best suited to their individual business strategies.

It took that Government two years to see through the idea and decline it; but at least they had the sense to say no. Will our new Government find the maturity to see through this repeat move, 17 years on? There is nothing new in this world — not even "smart procurement".

Yours faithfully,
TONY PURTON
(Director of Contracts, MoD, 1988-93),
48 Kent Avenue, Ealing, W13.
November 27.

Tory blight

From Sir David Goodall

Sir, Mr William Hague's dismal rating with his own supporters as well as the country at large (report, November 27) should cause serious heart-searching within the Conservative Party.

With the Left in temporary eclipse, Mr Blair is managing to present the voter with a skilful blend of economic realism, social concern and a modernising but fundamentally respectful attitude to the monarchy — and so, by implication, to the strength of tradition in British life.

Mr Blair's own Christian convictions, unpalatable though they are to many on the Left, have not been disguised. By contrast, Mr Hague's lightweight populism and opportunistic espousal of fashionably progressive attitudes, which to my mind devalue marriage and the family, only alienate traditional Conservative voters without impressing Labour ones.

The Conservative Party certainly needs to heal its internal divisions and moderate the ideological stridency of its right wing; but it would stand a better chance of recovering some of its lost support if it also gave the impression of having values (other than economic ones) which it wants to conserve.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GOODALL,
Greystones,
Ampleforth, York.
November 27.

Tory leadership

From Mr John E. Strafford

Sir, What an excellent letter today from John Horam, MP, on the procedure for election of the leader of the Conservative Party.

I would only add that when the final two or three candidates are put to all party members on a one person, one vote basis, they should have a minimum of 25 per cent of the votes of MPs. This would ensure that there is substantial support for them within the parliamentary party.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN E. STRAFFORD
(Chairman, Campaign for
Conservative Party Democracy),
Perama, Fulmer Road,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.
November 27.

Cigarette age limit

From Mr Paul Mason

Sir, Tessa Jowell (report, "Age for buying cigarettes to be raised to 18", November 27) states that "tobacconists would welcome the change", but for retailers such as myself, simply raising the age limit will have no effect. The onus is still on us to decide a person's age.

What is required is a government-backed national identity scheme. This would enable retailers to make a decision without the fear of being threatened or prosecuted.

I would never knowingly sell to an under-16, but without an ID card, how are we to know?

Yours etc,
PAUL MASON
(National spokesman),
Tobacco Alliance,
Haymarket House,
28-29 Haymarket, SW1.
November 27.

Weekend Money letters, page 61

Lessons of Hampstead traffic horror

From Mr Andy Spring

Sir, The broad range of views expressed in your coverage of the current debate over traffic in Hampstead, North London (reports, leading article and *Go*, November 22) raises some interesting questions.

The experience of the Royal School in Hampstead shows very clearly that if targets for traffic reduction are set, local solutions can be found quickly and easily to meet those targets without in any way limiting mobility. It also shows that there is a great deal of willingness on the part of motorists to participate in such traffic-reduction schemes. Its success is in no way dependent on government or local authorities providing alternatives.

Clearly the provision of alternatives to driving is vital. However, too often this is used as an excuse to shift the responsibility for action on to government: as we sit fuming in our traffic jams, we wait for somebody else to take the initiative. We can and must develop our own local alternatives.

The greater danger, as Peter Barnard implies in his article in *Go*, is that under the Transport Minister's proposals we may have even more buses and trains, but no fewer cars. Between 1981 and 1986 the GLC's fares policy increased public-transport usage but did not decrease the growth in road traffic. Investment in integrated transport must be a part of an overall strategy to reduce traffic, and the health, environmental and social problems it can cause.

Yours,
ANDY SPRING,
Flat 3, 36 Village Road,
Enfield, Middlesex.
November 24.

From Mr Richard Philips

Sir, One way to curb the menace of commuter parking in residential streets is to impose selective restrictions. A residents-only zone applicable from 8am to 10am would discourage most all-day parkers whilst causing little disruption to local businesses and those visiting the area. The timing of the restriction could be varied to suit local needs — between 2pm and 4pm, for instance.

Far more attention needs to be given to the local needs of residents. I used to live near a five-screen cinema in Chelsea and, in the evenings, when there was most pressure on parking spaces, parking restrictions did not apply. If the parking restrictions had continued to be enforced for a further hour, until 7.30pm, I might have had some hope of finding a space near my house when I returned of an evening.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD PHILIPS,
10 Broughton Avenue, Ham, Surrey.
November 22.

From Mr Paul Lambert

Sir, As an environmentally friendly London car owner and parking-permit holder, I recently contacted Westminster Council to ask if I could sell my car and use the permit for hire cars whenever I needed one.

The response was that I would have to visit the council offices each time I hired a car to obtain a permit showing the hired car's registration details.

A scheme that allows residents to hire cars occasionally and park them in residents' parking zones without such red tape would surely be a step in the right direction with regard to reducing car ownership?

Yours,
PAUL LAMBERT,
103 Randolph Avenue,
Maida Vale, W9.
crescendosoftware@msn.com
November 26.

From the Headmaster of Queens' School, Bushey

Sir, "Schools appear indifferent to the problems of parking, traffic control and pollution . . . state schools must tackle the traffic" (leading article, November 22). I agree.

Mr Blunkett should immediately introduce league tables which would allow parents to monitor the traffic policies of schools. Only then will we force these schools to address the key issues which we pay them to address instead of allowing them to waste their energies on such nebulous concepts as "raising standards". Schools should be made to write action plans based on ambitious targets to reduce pollution, failure to achieve which will be treated with zero tolerance.

The world will then be free for moralising newspaper editors to dispatch thousands of diesel-belching vehicles every night to distribute their wise guidance to the nation.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS NELSON,
Headmaster,
Queens' School, Aldenham Road,
Bushey, Watford, Hertfordshire.
November 24.

Trawler recovery

From Mr Michael Shrimpton

Sir, The remarkable effort of the families of the men who went down on the Peterhead fishing vessel *Sapphire* (report, November 24) to raise £400,000 to fund the recovery is to be applauded, but why should they have had to pay for it?

I had always understood that the recovery of the remains of those lost at sea, on a British vessel in British waters, so that they might be given a proper burial in accordance with the wishes of their families, was a function of government.

Having this month spent 10 days at sea on a Peterhead boat, studying the operation of the absurd common fisheries policy at first hand, I know that the refusal of the Government to help the families of those lost on the *Sapphire* has caused much fully justified local resentment.

It is not too late for a change of heart, assuming that the Government has got one.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,
Your humble and obedient servant,
MICHAEL SHRIMPTON,
Chambers of Andrew Thompson and
David Guy,
Francis Taylor Building,
3rd Floor, Temple, EC4.
November 26.

Away from home

From Mr John A. Jenkinson

Sir, Nigella Lawson (November 26) has some very quaint ideas on boarding schools, seeing some of them as open to sexual exploitation and a brutal haven for rejected children.

I never felt rejected and I was never sexually exploited. The whole ten years' boarding experience was just super fun, in a way that a day school is unable to replicate.

We briefly tried day school with our children but it meant that they spent nine to ten hours a week just travelling. They had scant opportunity for extra activities or for their friends.

Why should I condemn them to a life of "up early, car or coach, lessons, car or coach home, homework, quick solitary playtime (or sadly these days mind-numbing TV) and bed" just because I selfishly want to keep them with me?

No, if you're lucky enough to be able to afford it, give them the opportunity of a full life at a good boarding school: they'll appreciate their loving home even more.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. JENKINSON,
Old Rectory, Harvington,
Evesham, Worcestershire.
November 28.

Albuquerque to Essex

From Mr Ian Sanders

Sir, I was heartened by the story of the Neuhoff family, fleeing the dreadful conditions in their native Albuquerque (report, November 21; letters, November 25). However, I am surprised that on arrival here they were not imprisoned without trial and then forcibly deported, as seems to be traditional in cases such as these.

Can anybody explain this strange oversight on the part of the immigration authorities?

Yours faithfully,
IAN SANDERS,
Vanbrugh College,
University of York,
Heslington, York YO1 5DD.
is102@york.ac.uk
November 25.

Hoffnung recalled

From Mr Fritz Spiegl

Sir, Like much of the early Hoffnung repertoire, Leopold Mozart's "Hosepipe Concerto" (letters, November 26 and 28) first appeared at one of the April Fools' Concerts we gave in Liverpool more or less annually for some 25 years from 1952 — this work in 1953.

I had come across a manuscript of this unutterably feeble — but mercifully brief — joke while on holiday in Vienna in 1952. It was not for a garden hose, of course, but alphorn, or *corno pastoriccio*.

For Hoffnung's concert in the Royal Festival Hall in 1956 (in which I took part as principal ocarina and subconductor) the Swiss Embassy lent us a 24ft alphorn, which was lying backstage but for some reason was spurned by Dennis Brain in favour of his garden hose.

As you know, Sir, no old music is too feeble to get on to CD, provided it is "authentic". Your readers might like to know that at least two versions now exist, both played on real alphorns.

Yours faithfully,
FRITZ SPIEGL,
4 Windermere Terrace, Liverpool 8.
November 28.

Slightly foxed

From Mr P. Rowley

Sir, Lord Cranborne (report, November 25) put it beautifully: "It is absolutely outrageous when a majority becomes an oppressor."

That is exactly how the fox feels.

Yours sincerely,
P. ROWLEY,
94 Chippenham Road,
Easterside,
Middlesbrough, Cleveland.
November 26.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Car park threat to Greenwich field

From Mr Richard Bourn

Sir, Whatever the merits of the Millennium Exhibition itself, there were at least two good reasons for choosing Greenwich as its location instead of a greenfield site near Birmingham.

First, it was better to use restored derelict urban land than to build in the countryside. Second, Greenwich offered the potential of reaching the exhibition entirely by public transport while Birmingham was touted for its proximity to the motorway network and its ease of access by car.

Both these advantages are in danger of being squandered. On December 1 Greenwich Council is to consider an application to build a massive 1,400-space car park on Falconwood Field. Lying immediately south of Oxleas Wood, which is designated as a site of special scientific interest, and some four miles from the Dome, this ten-acre field enjoys the designation of metropolitan open land (unique to London) as an area of "historic, nature-conservation or habitat interest of metropolitan or national value". To lose it is the local equivalent of sacrificing part of Hyde Park, Hampstead Heath or Richmond Park.

Falconwood Field would provide only a fraction of the 9,000 car parking spaces the exhibition organisers want. The exhibition has also been used as justification for enlarging the A102 from six to eight lanes south of the four-lane Blackwall Tunnel, and for the recent decision in the accelerated roads review to spend £145 million on "improvements" of the A13 just north of the river.

The "Millennium Experience" would give a much better account of modern Britain if it displayed a proper regard for valued open space, vital to the wellbeing of the urban environment, and an understanding that a modern transport system does not depend on unnecessary car use.

We hope that Greenwich Council has thought about these matters more carefully than others appear to have done.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD BOURN
(Campaigns and Development
Officer),
CPRE London Branch,
5 Cowcross Street, EC1.
November 27.

All-embracing terms

From Mr John Ratcliffe

Sir, May I suggest that a suitable replacement for "to develop" and "developer" (letter, November 28), which would express more precise connotations, would be "to envelope" and "enveloper".

Yours faithfully,
JOHN RATCLIFFE,
18 Castle Lane, Warwick.
November 28.

Proceed with care

From Dr Antony Warren

Sir, The NHS General Ophthalmic Services prescription that my daughter recently obtained from the optician for long-sightedness bears the instruction: "Read the rest of this form before you get your spectacles" (letters, November 11, 13, 18, 24, 26).

Yours faithfully,
ANTONY WARREN,
4 Pearce Close, Cambridge.
November 27.

From Mr F. E. Hobbs

Sir, I am advised to remove the dust from the lenses of my binoculars with a camel's hairbrush.

Yours sincerely,
F. E. HOBBS,
120 Bridgnorth Road,
Compton, Wolverhampton.

From the Managing Director of Beaver & Tapley Ltd

Sir, To conform with the relevant British Standard, we are obliged to stick labels on to the glass-door cabinets that we manufacture stating: "Do not hit the glass with hard or sharp objects."

Yours faithfully,
ROGER RICHARDSON,
Manager Director,
Beaver & Tapley Ltd,
Scotts Road, Southall, Middlesex.
November 26.

From Mr R. K. Day

Sir, Instructions printed on the hand-drier in the gents' loo in a five-star hotel in Gaborone, Botswana:

Shake water off hands.
Rub gently under blower.
Wipe on shirt.

Yours faithfully,
R. K. DAY,
Crowsnest House, Crowsnest Lane,
Comberbach, Cheshire.
November 25.

Warm front?

From Mrs Eileen M. Clarke

Sir, November 28 and my husband is still not wearing his vest.

Is this clear evidence of global warming?

Yours faithfully,
EILEEN M. CLARKE,
Norfields, Greenfield Road,
Stonesfield, Oxfordshire.
November 28.

هكذا من الامل

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 28: The Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton (Baroness in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the Departure of The Queen of Denmark and bade farewell to Her Majesty on behalf of The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 28: The Princess Royal, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence RN, this morning departed from Gatwick Airport, London, to visit Colombia, Peru and Paraguay.

The following were present and took leave of Her Royal Highness: the Ambassador of the Republic of Colombia (His Excellency Mr Carlos Lemos-Simonds), Minister Counsellor Señorita Maria Landaveri (Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Peru), Señor Igor Pangrazio (Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Paraguay) and Sir Michael Pike (Special Representative of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs).

The Princess Royal this evening arrived in Bogotá and was received by Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Colombia (His Excellency Sir Leycester Coltman).

Mrs Charles Ritchie and Mr Rupert McGuigan are in attendance.

Royal engagements

TODAY:
Princess Margaret, as President, the Guide Association, will attend the North East England Guide Association Advent service in York Minster, at 1.55

TOMORROW:
The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron, Scottish Opera, will attend a Gala Concert, at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh, at 6.25.

Dr Myra McCulloch

Lord Carrington, KG, CH, Chancellor of Reading University, attended a celebration for the life of Dr Myra McCulloch held yesterday at the university.

Among those taking part were Professor Gwynne Jones and Mr Bryn Jones, brothers, Professor Roger Williams, Vice-Chancellor, Mrs Helen Fisher, soprano, Ms Elizabeth Green, harp, Mr Gwyn Parry-Jones and Mr Nicholas Bannan, Lecturers in the Department of Arts and Humanities in Education, Ms Christine Eden of Bath College of Higher Education, Ms Joan Whitehead, Lecturer, University of the West of England, Professor Roger Mead, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the Rev Robert Parry, Vicar of the Welsh Church in Rugby, Dr Rhona Stainthorp, Lecturer, Department of Education Studies and Management, Emeritus Professor Monty Frey, Mrs Mary Fisher, Bulmershe Hall of Residence, Mrs Angela Crum Ewing, Ms Naomi Beer, Professor Maureen Pope, Dean of the Faculty of Education and Community Studies, Mrs Annette Haworth, Director of Computer Services and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and Mr Brian Fawcett.

Order of the Thistle

Lord Mackay of Clashfern to be a Knight Companion of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle.

Uppingham School

The Chapel Choir will be presenting a recital of Music for Advent at 3.00pm on Sunday, December 7, in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. Former pupils and other friends of the school are welcome to attend. Tickets are not required.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY:
Professor Sir Ivor Batchelor, psychiatrist, 81; M Jacques Chirac, President of France, 65; Sir Derek Day, diplomat, 70; Mr Tommy Dingwall, former Lord Provost and Lord-Lieutenant of Glasgow, 67; Mr Ryan Giggs, footballer, 24; Professor Sir Michael Howard, FBA, historian, 75; Mr Derek Jameson, journalist and broadcaster, 68; Professor Sir Frank Kermode, FBA, former Professor of English Literature, Cambridge University, 78; Mr John Mayall, blues singer, 64; Mr Geoffrey Moorhouse, writer, 66; Dame Shirley Porter, former Lord Mayor of Westminster, 67; Professor D.W. Rhind, director-general, Ordnance Survey, 54; Mr Toby Robertson, theatre, opera and television director, 69; Mr David Rogers, former chief executive, Amstrad, 51; Mrs Justice Janet Smith, 57; Sir David Steel, former chairman, The Wellcome Trust, 81; Sir John Templeton, financial analyst, 85; Mr Alan Lee Williams, director, The Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom, 67; Ms Louise Winter, mezzo-soprano, 38.

TOMORROW:
Miss Diana Cotton, QC, 56; Mr Graham Crowden, actor, 75; Mr George Duffield, jockey, 51; Sir Victor Goodhew, former MP, 78; Mr Gary Lineker, footballer commentator and broadcaster, 37; Mr Radu Lupu, pianist, 52; Lord Parry, 72; Miss Marguerite Porter, ballerina, 49; Sir Stanley Rees, former High Court judge, 70; Mr Max Reinhardt, publisher, 82; Mr John H. Scott, Lord-Lieutenant of Shetland, 71; Lord Tope, 54.

Service luncheons

HMS Tracker
Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, OM, Chancellor of Oxford University, attended a luncheon at the Loch Green House Hotel, Troon, yesterday, after the official naming of *HMS Tracker* in Troon Yacht Haven by Dame Jennifer Jenkins. Mr David Goodrich, Chairman of British Maritime Technology, was the host. The high speed coastal training craft will be attached to the Oxford University Royal Navy Unit URNU, commanded by Lieutenant Commander Rory McNeile, RN.

RCT
Major-General I.S. Baxter, President of the Institution of the Royal Army Service Corps and the Royal Corps of Transport, was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at the Royal Marines Barracks, Chivenor, by courtesy of Lieutenant-Colonel R.K. Rowley, RLC, for members from the West of England.

Resignation

Lord Justice Staughton will resign as a Lord Justice of Appeal on December 5.

Service dinners

HMS Northwood
Former officers of the *HMS Northwood* Training Department held their annual ladies night dinner last night at the Savile Club. Lieutenant Commander Nigel Gates presided.

Not Under Command Club
Brigadier D. Wilson, RM, Chief of Staff to the Commandant General, Royal Marines, was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the *Not Under Command* Club held last night in *HMS Excellent*. Commander C.J. Kirwin, chairman of the club, presided. Major-General A. Keeling, president of the club, was present.

The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
The annual dinner of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment Officers' Club was held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club. Lieutenant General Sir Anthony Denison-Smith, Colonel of the Regiment, presided.

University of London Air Squadron
Air Vice-Marshal C.C.C. Coville, Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff Operational Requirements (Air Systems), and Professor R.N. Franklin, Vice-Chancellor of the City University, were the guests of honour at the annual dinner of the University of London Air Squadron held last night at the Squadron's Town Headquarters. Wing Commander R.J.A. Powell, Squadron Commander, presided.

Dinner

British Czech and Slovak Association
Lord Holme of Cheltenham was the principal speaker at the annual dinner of the British Czech and Slovak Association held last night at the Marlborough Hotel, London WC1.

Mr Ladislav Hornan, chairman, presided, and the Ambassadors of the Czech and Slovak Republics were among those present.

Luncheons

International Steel Trade Association
Mr Kenneth Clarke, QC, MP, was the principal guest and speaker at the annual luncheon of the International Steel Trade Association held yesterday at Grosvenor House.

Mrs Alison Baldwin, chairman, presided.

The King's School, Bruton
The annual luncheon of The King's School Bruton Old Boys Association was held yesterday at Wax Chandlers' Hall, by permission of the Master, Mr Michael Harvey, OB.

Mr Christopher Rhys-Jones, OB, proposed the toast to the school.

ANDRÉ CAMARA

Maura Cahill and Simon Eyre of London who have recently announced their engagement

University news

Oxford
Mansfield College
The following have been elected Honorary Fellows of Mansfield College, Oxford:
Mr Will Hutton, Editor of *The Observer*; Sir John Maddox, former Editor of *Nature* and former member of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution; Rabbi Julia Neuberger, Director of The King's Fund and Chancellor of Ulster University; Lord Taverne, QC, former Financial Secretary to the Treasury and founder member of the SDP.

City University
City University has awarded the following honorary degrees:
Maureen Theobald, former Chairman of the English National Board for Nursing and Midwifery and Health Visiting — Doctor of Science.
Professor Lesley Rees, former Dean of St Bartholomew's Medical School — Doctor of Science.
Dr J. Byng-Hall, consultant child and family psychiatrist, Tavistock Clinic — Doctor of Science.
Mr Peter Preston, Editorial Director, Guardian Media Group — Doctor of Letters.
F. G. Jacobs, QC, Advocate General at the Court of Justice of the European Communities — Doctor of Civil Law.
Dr Karen Spärck Jones, Reader in the computer laboratory, Cambridge University — Doctor of Science.
Ms Marion Frank, past President of the Society of Radiographers — Doctor of Science.
Mr Feike Grit, optometrist and City University Alumnus — Doctor of Science.
Mr Michael Shears, deputy chairman, Ove Arup Group — Doctor of Science.
Mr Gordon Jarvis, chairman and benefactor of the Laban Centre for Movement and Dance — Doctor of Science.
Sir David Rowland, Chairman Lloyds' of London — Doctor of Science.
Sir John Leahy, past chairman of the University Council — Doctor of Civil Law.

Weekend anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: John Ray, naturalist, Black Notley, Essex, 1627; Christian Doppler, physicist, Salzburg, 1803; Louisa May Alcott, author of *Little Women*, Germantown, Pennsylvania, 1832; Tz'u-Hsi, Dowager Empress of China, 1834; Gertrude Jekyll, gardener and landscape architect, London, 1843; Sir Robert Hadfield, metallurgist, Sheffield, 1858; Busby Berkeley, choreographer, Los Angeles, 1895; C.S. Lewis, writer, Belfast, 1898.

DEATHS: Roger de Mortimer, 1st Earl of March, traitor, hanged, drawn and quartered, London, 1330; Thomas Wolsey, Lord Chancellor 1515-29, Leicester, 1530; Prince Rupert, royalist commander in the Civil War, London, 1682; Giacomo Puccini, composer, Brussels, 1924; Sir George Robey, comedian, Saltdean, Sussex, 1954; Graham Hill, world champion racing driver 1962, 1968, killed in an aircraft crash, near Elstree, 1975; Natalie Wood, actress, drowned, off the island of Catalina, California, 1981; Cary Grant, actor, Davenport, Iowa, 1986.

Admiral Richard Byrd made the first flight over the South Pole, 1929.

Yugoslavia was proclaimed as a Federal People's Republic, 1945.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Andrea Palladio, architect, Padua, 1508; Sir Philip Sidney, poet and soldier, Penshurst, Kent, 1554; John Bunyan, writer and preacher, Elstow, near Bedford, 1628; Jonathan Swift, poet, satirist and pamphleteer, Dublin, 1667; John Toland, philosopher and free thinker, Inishowen, Co Donegal, 1670; Theodor Mommsen, historian, Garding, Germany, 1817; Mark Twain, writer, Florida, Missouri, 1835; Sir Paul Vinogradoff, historian, Kostrama, Russian, 1854; Sir Winston Churchill, Prime Minister 1940-45 and 1951-55, Blenheim Palace, 1874; Charles Hawtrey, actor, Hounslow, West London, 1914.

DEATHS: John Selden, lawyer and historian, Whitefriars, 1654; Sir Peter Lely, portrait painter, Covent Garden, 1680; Marcello Malpighi, physiologist, Rome, 1694; Giambattista Bodoni, type designer, Padua, 1813; James Sheridan Knowles, dramatist, Torquay, 1862; August Bournonville, writer, 1879; Oscar Wilde, dramatist and poet, Paris, 1900; Edward John Eyre, explorer in Australia, Tavistock, 1901; Wilhelm Furtwangler, conductor, Baden-Baden, 1954; Beniamino Gigli, tenor, Rome, 1957; Patrick Kavanagh, poet, Dublin, 1967; Sir Compton Mackenzie, writer, Edinburgh, 1972; Sir Terence Rattigan, dramatist, Hamilton, Bermuda, 1977; Joyce Grenfell, actress and broadcaster, London, 1979. Today is the Feast of St Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland.

The Crystal Palace was destroyed by fire, South London, 1936.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr B.L. Noble
and Miss A.A. Voigt
The engagement is announced between Barry, only son of Rev and Mrs Charles Noble, of San Antonio, Texas, and Asta, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Bjoern Voigt, of Fredrickshamn, Finland.

Mr K.M. Parry
and Miss B.J. Hodgson
The engagement is announced between Max, son of Rex Parry, of Stourbridge, West Midlands, and Mrs Pamela Parry, of Helsby, Cheshire, and Beverly, daughter of Mr Keith Hodgson, of Stafford, and Mrs Kathleen Hodgson, of Featherstone, Staffordshire.

Mr C.A. Rycroft
and Miss K.C. Fiennes-Price
The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of Mr and Mrs Rodney Rycroft, of Maidenhead, Berkshire, and Katharine, daughter of the late Mr John Price and of Mrs Cynthia Tyldesley, of Penarth, Wales.

Dr P.J.E. Smart
and Miss P.E. Waddingham
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Mrs Smart, of Langton Green, Kent, and Paula, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs G.R. Waddingham, of Swanland, East Yorkshire.

Marriages

Mr P.L. Balfe
and Miss A.J. Hilton
The marriage took place on November 22, at Tabley House, Knutsford, between Paul, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Balfe, of Macclesfield, and Alison, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Hilton, of Wilmslow.

Mr S. Barrett
and Miss R. Mathews
The marriage took place on November 28, 1997, at Queen Victoria House, Barkingside, between Mr Stuart Barrett, son of Mr and Mrs K. Barrett, of Wanstead, and Miss Rebecca Mathews, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. Mathews, of Perth, Western Australia.

Carpenters' Company

Sir Michael Heron has presented the Carpenters' Company prizes at the Building Crafts College prizegiving held recently at Carpenters' Hall. Prizes were also awarded to the winners of the national classes of the Institute of Carpenters, Carpenters Craft Competition. Mr H.M. Neal, Master, presided.

Ambassador to Georgia

Mr Dick Jenkins to be Ambassador to Georgia, in January, in succession to Mr Stephen Nash who is moving to a new Diplomatic Service appointment.

ON THIS DAY

November 29, 1977

Wayne Sleep's show was a fast moving musical: some beautiful straight ballet, but also much brilliant larking about and mickey-taking, both verbal and physical. There were scores of children and young people in the audience — as many as adults.

A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP

ADELPHI

There may be differences of opinion about Wayne Sleep's merits as a classical stylist; as to his abilities as an entertainer, there can be none. In Sunday's gala at the Adelphi, held in aid of the Friends of One-Parent Families, he was not only co-producer and linkman, but appeared in no fewer than seven items.

These ranged from Balanchine's *Tarantella*, in which he partnered a sparkling Lesley Collier, to a new Ashton party-piece, *Tweedledum and Tweedledee*, with Graham Fletcher as Dum and Collier as Alice. A lovely trio this, in which Ashton has caught the true flavour of Lewis Carroll.

Sleep also appeared in a solo from Nijinska's ballet, *Le Train Bleu*. Created in 1924 for Anton Dolin, who taught it to Sleep, it is a mixture of virtuoso steps and acrobatics.

The programme included two other revivals of early works; Ninette de Valois's *Pride*, performed by Maina Gielgud and Pavlova's *Dragonfly* solo, ravishingly danced by Margaret Barbieri. But the main event of the evening was the London premiere of a new Ashton *pas de deux* to the music of Offenbach's ballet, *Le Papillon*.

Ashton has ignored the complex plot of the original and has made a charming romantic *pas de deux* evoking the period of the Second Empire. Beautifully danced by Merle Park, it makes full use of her lightness, her sure technique, and sense of style. Partnering her, Wayne Eagling seems less secure, and Julia Trevelyan Oman's rather fussy costume does not flatter him.

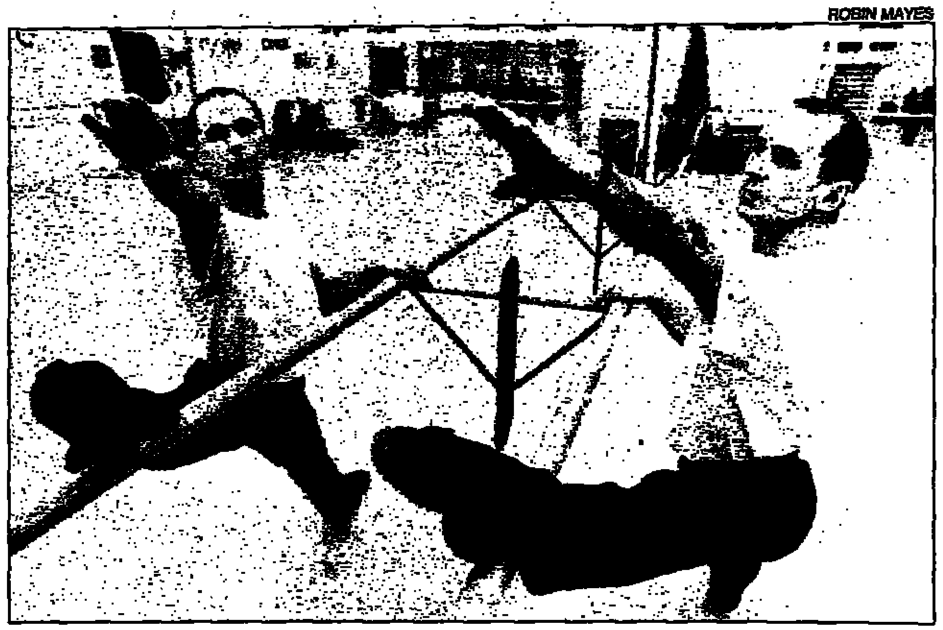
But not all the dancers came from the Royal Ballet and not all the performers were dancers. London Contemporary Dance Theatre was represented by Robert North and Linda Gibbs in a *pas de deux* from Robert Cohan's *Nympheas*, and the musical by Petra Siniawski and Nicki Croydon from *A Chorus Line*.

Derek Jacobi shared the announcing with Wayne Sleep, while Penelope Keith brought a new look to *The Sleeping Beauty*, with a forgetful Lilac Fairy. Full marks to her Florimund, Anthony Dowell, the first dancer I have ever seen prompting classical mime.

Dowell and John Curry appeared in the Popular Song from Ashton's *Façade* and, yes, seen together they do resemble each other. Altogether it was a really enjoyable evening, and I am sure none of the audience slept a wink.

Judith Cruickshank

ROBIN MAYES



Wayne Sleep rehearsing in 1994 for his return, after 11 years, to classical ballet

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Observe the kindness and the severity of God - severity to those who fell away, divine kindness to you provided that you remain within its scope; otherwise you too will be cut off. Romans 11 : 22

BIRTHS

BEADLE - On Thursday 27th November 1997 at 1.55 am, to Paul Beadle and Michele Humphreys, a daughter, Lily, 7lbs 1oz. A first grandchild for Rodney and Valerie Beadle.

BONNIOT - On November 23rd at The Portland Hospital, to Kristine and Eric, a son, Liam Scott, a brother for Madeleine Katherine.

CONROY - On Tuesday November 18th in Cambridge, to Clare (née Pearson) and Joseph, a daughter, Frances Helen.

DAYAL - On November 25th at The Portland Hospital, to Binita and Shiv, a son, Siddhant, a brother for Karanvir.

EVES - On Tuesday 18th November 1997, to Jennifer (née Bentley) and Tony, a daughter, Grace Jennifer, a sister for Annie Alice.

GRUNDMAN - On November 23rd at The Portland Hospital, to Lisa and Jason, a precious son, Jordan Max.

HARRIS - On November 23rd at home in Godalming, to Penny (née Chester) and Nick, a son, Benjamin, a brother for Georgina, Jessica and Samuel.

IMPEY - On November 22nd, to Rebecca (née Bartlett) and Matthew, a son, Ludovic Edward.

LODER - On November 19th, to Cressy (née Landless) and David, a daughter, Flora, a sister for Katherine.

PAGE - On November 26th, to Marian (née Quirk) and Ken, a daughter, Mary Elizabeth, a sister for Christopher, Matthew and Dominic.

PAINE - On November 20th 1997 at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to Samantha (née Tromans) and Simon, a son, Louis George Hammon.

ROSS - On 26th November at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Debbie and Graham, a son, Samuel Finlay Kenneth, a brother for Laura-Jean.

SALTER - On 23rd November, to Tessa (née Mason) and Robert, a son, Harry James Mason.

SHAH - On 26th November 1997, to Sally (née Romer) and Rabindra, a son, Maximilian Romer, a brother for Daniel and James.

SHEVCHIK - On November 25th at The Portland Hospital, to Lydia and Bohdan, a son, Nicholas Bohdan. Welcome to the world Angel.

STEWART - On November 28th at St Thomas' Hospital, to Georgina (née Smith) and Roger, a daughter, Victoria Alice, a sister for Alexander and Samuel.

TAYLOR - On November 20th, to Janet (née Bowerman) and William, a son, Archie George, a brother for Emily and Digby.

YAMAMURA - On November 23rd at The Portland Hospital, to Shigeru and Yoshiko, a daughter, Yoshino.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WINDSOR-SPENCER - Jean, wife of the late Brian, would like to thank all relatives and friends for their kind messages of sympathy and donations received at this sad time. They were very comforting.

DEATHS

BROWNE - Thomas of Hove on November 25th aged 91. Much loved by his family and sadly missed by all his friends.

DEATHS

BRUCE-GARDNER - On 25th November peacefully at home after a short final illness, Sir Douglas Bruce-Gardner Bt. aged 80. Beloved husband of Sheila (née Stilliard) and former husband of Monica Clark (née Jefferson). Much loved father of Judith, Robert, Tanis, Joanna and Graham. A loving grandfather and great-grandfather. Cremation private but a service in celebration of his life will be held at St Dubricius Church, Whitchurch, near Ross on Wye, Herefordshire on Thursday 4th December at 12 noon. Family flowers only, but if desired donations to R.N.L.I. or British Heart Foundation may be sent to David Stockwell, Funeral Director, 16 Glendower Street, Monmouth NP5 3DG.

BUTTERWORTH - Edward Alexander, F.R.C.S., peacefully at home on 26th November, aged 90, beloved husband of Scylla and dearly loved father and grandfather. Funeral Service at St Nicholas', Barton le-Cley, 2 pm Tuesday 2nd December. Family flowers only. If desired, donations to St Nicholas' Church or R.N.L.I. c/o Prudence Dennis, Goodalls, Nazeing, Essex, EN9 2LP.

CARVER - Peggy died on 27th November 1997 aged 90. Beloved mother of Richard and Virginia and grandchildren Andrew and Jocelyn all living in Canada. Funeral Service to be held on Thursday December 4th at Kevil Parish Church at 3.15pm. All enquiries please to Winchcombe Funeral Service (01380) 722500.

CUTHBERTSON - On 27th November 1997, Annie Vera, aged 79. Much loved widow of Jim, mother of Michael, Alastair and Brian, and grandmother of Stuart and Thomas. Formerly of Northwood. Funeral and Thanksgiving Service at Lady St Mary Church, Wareham, Dorset on Friday 5th December at 2.30 pm. Reunited with her beloved Jim and "with Christ, which is far better". Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, will be divided between the Bible Society and Lady St Mary Church Preservation Trust, c/o Albert Marsh (Funeral Directors) Ltd., St Michaels Road, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4QU (tel: 01929 552107).

DEAN - On 26th November 1997, peacefully at home after a short illness, The Rev Canon Desmond Keable Dean MA BD, aged 91. Beloved husband and partner for 63 years of Constance and dear father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service at 1.30 pm on Thursday 4th December at St Mary's Church, Hailsham, East Sussex, followed by burial in Hailsham Cemetery. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for the Church Pastoral Aid Society and the London City Mission, to both of whom he was most indebted, may be sent to Hailsham Funeral Service, 11 Station Road, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 2BS "Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel" (1 Corinthians 9 v 16).

FLACK - Louise Lea much loved friend died on 27th November at 6 Britannia House, Marina Bay, Gibraltar. Aged 84. The funeral will be held at 12 noon on Monday 1st December at St Theresa's Church, Gibraltar, followed by cremation in Marbella, Spain. Louise will be sadly missed by her many close friends. Donations would be appreciated for Cancer Relief Gibraltar (Macmillan Nurses) at Lady Williams Centre, Devil's Tower Road, Gibraltar. All enquiries to H. Codali Ltd (Funeral Directors) at 11-13 Convent Place, Gibraltar. (Tel. 00 350 75747).

FOME - Leonard William, husband, father and grandfather, passed away at home on 22nd November 1997. "Sweet is the sleep that ends all pain"

JONES - Arthur Lt. Col. (ex RA, ex RAEC). Born Penygroes, Caernarvonshire 12th April 1910 died Oswestry, Shropshire on 26th November 1997 after a long, happy and full life. Greatly loved and sadly missed by his wife Kathleen, by his children Glyn, Megan and Dylan and by his grandchildren Holly and Richard, Ben and Ian, Heather and Nick. Funeral 2pm Wednesday 3rd December at the Crematorium, Pentrebychan, Wrexham. No flowers please but donations, if desired, to the RNLI. Enquiries to David Davies & Sons (01691) 653116.

LE GRAND - On November 26th, quietly at home Joan beloved mother of Noel and Caroline, grandmother of Sarah and Peter. No flowers please, donations if wished to Action Research, Vincent House, North Parade, Horsham, RH12 2DP. Funeral on Wednesday 3rd December at 2.30 pm at Mortlake Crematorium, Townsmead Road, Richmond.

NELSON - On 27th November 1997 John Richard Nelson after a brave fight against cancer. Beloved husband of Paula, dearly loved and loving father of Linda and Sarah. Funeral Service at the Church of St Paul, Woldingham, on Thursday 4th December at 2 pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Harestone Marie Curie Centre or Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton Branch c/o B.C. Baker F/S, 15-17 High Street, Caterham, CR3 5UE, (01883) 343219.

RAYNER - Kathleen Doris (née Harding) peacefully on Wednesday 26th November 1997 aged 95 years. Widow of Dr. H.L. (Bill) Rayner, General Practitioner in Twickenham, Middlesex. Funeral Service at St Mary's Parish Church, Twickenham, on Wednesday 3rd December at 10.45 am, followed by cremation at South West Middlesex Crematorium at 11.45 am. All enquiries to Andrew Holmes & Son F/S, tel: (0181) 572-3277.

REXSTRAW - Much respected Incorporated Insurance Broker - suddenly on November 24th, 1997 and of Ashton-under-Lyne, Thomas Edward Rexstraw, aged 66 years, the dearly loved husband of Margaret, much loved Dad of Andrew, Louise and Jacqui, much loved grandpa of Damien, Rebecca, Vanessa, Danielle, Jacob and Marvin. Service at Holy Trinity Church, Ashton-under-Lyne, on Monday, 1st December at 3.15 pm, followed by committal at Dukinfield Crematorium. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu if desired to MENCAP. Enquiries Kenworthy's Funeral Service, tel: 0161 330 1821.

RIDER - Arthur on November 22nd in Watford General Hospital aged 88. Funeral at St James' Parish Church, Bushey, at 12 noon on Thursday December 4th. Family flowers only but charitable donations, if desired, to Christ's Hospital, Horsham, c/o Ballard & Marchant Ltd., 11 King Street, Watford, WD1 8BT. A Memorial Service will be held at C.H. in the Lent Term. Date to be announced.

ROPER - Dr. William George (Tim) of Cambridge, on November 26th.

SELIGMAN - On Thursday, 27th November, 1997, Maryl Adelaide, widow of her beloved Geoffrey, dear mother of Jill, Charles and David, adoring grandmother, twin sister to Gwynneth and sister to Claire. Funeral on Tuesday, 2nd December 1997 at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, London NW11. No flowers by request.

SHAW - Lt. Col. Francis Michael (Freddie) on November 26th aged 82 in Salisbury District Hospital peacefully after a short illness. Beloved husband of the late Mary and father of Jane. Funeral Service at Boyton Church on Thursday 4th December at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Royal British Legion c/o I.N. Newman, 55 Winchester Street, Salisbury, SP1 1HL.

SILKIN - Jon distinguished poet, critic and founder-editor of Stand Magazine, died in hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne on November 25th after a brief illness. The funeral has taken place at Bushey Cemetery, Herts. No flowers; any donations to Amnesty International.

TREE - On November 24th 1997, Lilian, aged 96 years. A much loved wife of Doctor John Rutherford Tree, retired G.P. and former Police Surgeon. Funeral Service takes place at Bedford Crematorium, Norse Road, on Tuesday 2nd December at 3.15 pm. Flowers to Arnolds Funeral Service, Roff Avenue, Bedford MK41 7TE, tel: (01234) 359529.

TURNBULL - On 27th November. Peacefully in Devon. R.M. (Dick) Turnbull. Much loved husband of Wendy, father and grandfather to all his family. "GOM". Family funeral. No letters or flowers please. Enquiries to Ferring Funeral Services (01803) 862417.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

MEGGIE - Dr. James Ferguson BSD FRCPath FRSE November 29th 1990. Husband of Mary. Remembered every day with deepest love and admiration. MIZPAH.

RHODES - In memory of Jeannette Lesly Rhodes (née Noakes) who died 28th November 1987. Much loved and missed mother of Martin, Kirsten and Andrew.

BIRTHDAYS

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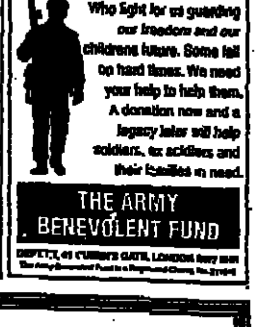

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OBITUARIES

DAN FARSON

Daniel Farson, writer, broadcaster and photographer, died on November 27 aged 70. He was born on January 8, 1927.

Regulars at the bar of the York Minster pub ("the French House") in Soho (left), a typically evocative photograph of bohemian life by Dan Farson

A self-confessed celebrity snob, Dan Farson was a rumbustious alcoholic whose fortune it was to have known many of the most famous artistic figures of his day. His startlingly frank autobiography, *Never A Normal Man*, published in 1997, resembles a heap of heterogenous jigsaw pieces, each a part of the puzzle of someone else's life. Farson counted among his acquaintances such people as Noël Coward, John Osborne, Graham Sutherland, Orson Welles, Tennessee Williams, Colin Wilson and Somerset Maugham.

But it was for his association with London's Soho and his friendship with Francis Bacon, which was nurtured there, that Farson was to become best known. In the 1940s Soho was a bohemian outpost undisturbed by the war, a place as alive and exciting in its way as Isherwood's Berlin or the Rive Gauche in Paris. For a homosexual, growing up in an era when practising homosexuality was a crime, it was a paradise. "There were no rules to be broken because there were no rules and none of the conventions regarding money, age, class or sex which curbed the rest of Britain," Farson wrote.

In the dens and drinking houses of this island of liberalism, Farson cemented an enduring friendship with Bacon and with the circle of painters who, during the 1950s at least, were associated with him — Lucian Freud, Michael Andrews and Frank Auerbach. "I consider it my greatest luck," Farson once said, "to have known Francis Bacon, to have really known the man by whom our times will be judged." His biography of Bacon, *The Gilded Gutter Life* (1993), if not the most comprehensive portrait of the great painter, was certainly the one which best captured the spirit and essence of the man. A film of Bacon's life, to be released next year, has been based on it.

Yet, though customarily self-deprecating, Farson had himself enjoyed a diverse and successful career. A pioneer of the live interview, he became a nationally recognised television personality in the 1950s and 1960s. "You're my son's favourite," a woman once wrote to him. "As soon as he knows you are coming on, he shaves and puts on a clean shirt to watch you." But Farson shrugged off small screen fame as "spurious and artificial".

Recklessly optimistic and financially feckless, Farson time and again cast his fate to the winds. His life see-sawed between triumph and adversity — both swilled down alike with a glass of champagne. Perhaps the only thing which he treated with seriousness was his writing — it was certainly the only thing for which he remained sober. He was a considerable (if careless) journalist, as well as a biographer and author of travel books.

Soho always remained Farson's spiritual home. Even in his last years, living and writing in a fisherman's cottage in North Devon, he would make periodic journeys back there. Old friends and newer *aficionados* eager to meet the man who once knew Bacon, would find him in one of his habitual haunts, a small, sturdy figure slumped on a bar stool, his jowls snuggling comfortably into his neck, as he slowly drank himself into unintelligibility and then oblivion.

The only child of Negley Farson (in his time an author, American foreign correspondent and alcoholic of some reknown), Daniel Farson travelled the world and its watering holes at his father's side. He remembered Gandhi coming to his family home in Walton Street, and Hitler patting him on the head as "a good Aryan child" when his father was covering a speech at Garmisch and the streets of Munich were fluttering with swastika flags.

During the Second World War Farson, then at Abinger Hill School in Dorking, was evacuated along with such schoolfellows as Nicholas Mosley and Peregrine Worsthorne to Canada. Starting off at Ashbury College, Ottawa, he found himself passed around like a parcel between Montreal, Chicago, New York and Oregon. He was introduced to Somerset Maugham by his wealthy homosexual godfather Tom Seyster (who later, unfortunately, left all his money to an American Marine). Farson returned from the encounter blithely untarnished and quite unaware of the sexual tensions his outing had caused.

Returning to England in 1942 — on the ship he was pursued by a lascivious Bishop of Hong Kong — Farson completed his education at Wellington College. The school, with its militaristic values, was an "aberration", he said, and he persuaded his parents to allow him to leave in 1944 to study Russian at the School of Slavonic Studies instead. There he discovered that he had little gift for languages.

At the age of 17, in a stroke of luck, he was offered a job with the Central Press Agency and sent, as probably the youngest ever lobby correspondent, to the House of Commons — "the best club in London," Farson said. He followed Churchill on his 1945 election campaign and, in 1946, reported the inaugural assembly of the United Nations.

"One of the more bizarre aspects of my life," Farson once said, "is the way it has veered from triumph to disaster without my recognising the difference." A year later, called up as a draftee into the American Army Air Corps — he had dual nationality which he wished to preserve — he found himself instead reporting the birth of a staff sergeant's baby in a US Army news-sheet. But he enjoyed his military service and it left him with, if nothing else, an abiding delight in men in uniform.

Under the GI Bill of Rights, Farson was sent to Pembroke College, Cambridge. "The degree meant little to me and I realised at once that the whole point of university was to squander every precious second to my advantage." Yet the magazine that he founded there, *Panorama*, unearthed some of the writing talent of future decades, Peter Shaffer, Julian Slade and the Oxonian Kenneth Tynan included. It gained sufficient reputation to be launched as a national magazine but, despite a tentative offer from a publisher, Farson decided to call it a day, whether "from cowardice or the dread of being caught in a rut," he later said, he did not know.

On the strength of his success, however, Farson was offered work as a staff photographer on *Picture Post* — a job which brought him into contact with such figures as Noël Coward, Graham Greene, Brendan Behan, Robert Graves (whom he detested as a domineering bully) and Salvador Dali. He took a prize-winning photograph of the last, a double exposure which seemed a deliberately surreal shot of the great Surrealist, but in fact, Farson later admitted, was the accidental result of a jammed camera. He made a name for himself as a master of the quick-witted snapshot and was later to be given exhibitions of his work.

When eventually Farson was sacked after an imprudent photoshoot involving his naval deserter boyfriend, two cantankerous girls and a pair of donkeys, he decided, after a brief spell working for *Harper's Bazaar*, to join the Merchant Navy. Over-age and under-experienced, he could find work only as utility steward — "the lowest of the low" — and as such he circumnavigated the globe, dishcloth in hand. He acquired a tattoo on his hand, of a great white shark, disparagingly referred to by Francis Bacon as "Dan's sardine."

Returning to England in the mid-1950s, Farson had another lucky break when he gained employment with Associated-Rediffusion. On the weekly current affairs programme, *This Week*, he made a name for himself as an interviewer who pulled no punches. "The public's insatiable appetite for documentaries allowed a freedom of speech unthinkable today," he subsequently explained. He himself aimed for spontaneity, interviewing, as he did, across the broadest spectrum of life.

He confirmed his reputation with the groundbreaking series, *People in Trouble*, which was followed by *Out of Step*, a light-hearted look at minorities. In 1960 he made *Farson's Guide to the British* and later he had a series called *Dan Farson Meets*.

Meanwhile, Farson had made his home on the Thames at Limehouse in London's East End. Lying late in bed on Saturdays he would hear the loudspeaker announcements from passing tourist boats: "And this is Limehouse, notorious for its haunts of vice and dens of opium and now the home of TV personality Dan Farson." His study of Jack the Ripper arose from his exploration of the area. He also made a programme, *Time Gentleman Please!*, on pub entertainment in the East End.

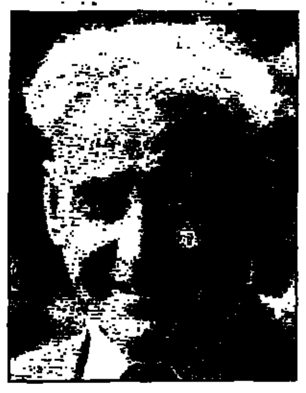
With impetuous enthusiasm he himself bought a pub, The Waterman's Arms, which he ran with old-fashioned music-hall entertainments. Customers included Bacon, William Burroughs, Jacques Tati, Clint Eastwood, Judy Garland, Lady Diana Cooper, the Kray twins and throngs of locals. Then in 1964, growing weary of the world of television, Farson gave everything up to write. He was broke at the time. The pub, he claimed, had been such a success that no one had been able to get to the bar to buy a drink.

His parents by now dead, he went to live in their old home, The Grey House in Devon, selling off his possessions — including paintings by his friends which, had he waited, would have sold for hundreds of thousands — to finance his writing. Eventually, and with great reluctance, he had to sell the house itself, moving to a cottage in Apledore with views over Baggy Point and sands where he daily bathed and walked his dogs. He still worked, somewhat desultorily, as a journalist: he had 18 months as the first food writer for *The Sun*, and in 1986 he joined *The Sunday Times* as a profile writer. Later he was the television critic for *The Mail on Sunday* and in 1990 became its art correspondent.

He still maintained a strong interest in the arts, accompanying Gilbert and George to Moscow in 1991, a trip which he recorded in a book. He continued to travel even in his last years. An exhibition of his photographs was held earlier this year at the Roy Miles gallery in London.

ROBERT WOOF

Robert Woof, Labour MP for Blaydon, 1956-79, died on November 27 aged 86. He was born on October 24, 1911.



BOB WOOF represented a type of Labour MP who will never again be seen at Westminster. He went straight from the coal-face to the House of Commons, and his 23-year parliamentary career was marked by unquestioning loyalty to his party and his industry.

He lived to see the election by an overwhelming majority of a Parliamentary Labour Party in which he would have been completely out of place, and the union to which he owed his advancement decline to a pale shadow of its former strength.

Woof was born into a mining family and it was inevitable that he should enter the coal industry as soon as he left elementary school at the age of 14. Just as inevitable was his adherence to the Labour Party and the National Union of Mineworkers. He served on the Durham County Council from 1947 until 1956, when he entered the Commons as MP for Blaydon.

The seat had become vacant through the death of William Whiteley, Labour's former hard-line Chief Whip who held his office throughout the reforms of the Attlee Governments of 1945-51 and who was an unhappy witness to the beginnings of the Bevanite insurrection. At the selection conference Woof easily beat a leading Bevanite ex-MP.

Sam Watson was leader of the Durham miners during the early part of Woof's Commons career, and his Gaitskellite line was generally followed by the new MP. Like most of the NUM nominees, Woof spoke rarely in the House but was content to add the kind of ballast to the Labour benches that the "knights of the shire" supplied to the Tory ones.

He was one of the few politicians of his time to emerge successfully from a libel action. With Tom Urwin, another Labour MP, he was awarded damages and costs against Thomson Regional Newspapers as the result of an article written by George Gardiner, then a provincial lobby correspondent but later to become Sir George Gardiner, the Conservative MP for Reigate who left the Tories and fought the last election unsuccessfully as a Referendum Party candidate.

Woof was married to Mary Bell, who died in 1971. He is survived by their daughter.

C. GORDON TETHER

C. Gordon Tether, journalist, died on November 17 aged 84. He was born on November 6, 1913.

C. GORDON TETHER was for a quarter of a century the most widely remarked financial columnist in the country. His "Lombard" column in the *Financial Times* was combative, increasingly wide-ranging and often extremely funny, though at the end it became obsessive.

His original brief when he took over the column from the late Paul Einzig in 1949 was, as its title suggests, to comment on the money and currency markets. But Tether, though a quiet and somewhat reclusive man, held many passionate convictions about much larger matters, and he steadily widened his scope to include sermons or satires and to give his hobby-horses an outing.

He preached sound money, the gold standard and more generous aid to the poorest countries. But his pet hates made the biggest impact: attacks on financial double-talk (especially from officials), American domination — and, above all, on the Common Market. (Compared with Tether, today's Europhobes are all moderates.)

His moral sermons met the usual fate of sermons — respectfully noted, and ignored — but his satires could draw blood. The most memorable was his invention of the Central Bankers' Academy at Hetheringstoke (modelled shamelessly on Beachcomber), where the Principal lectured on bankmanship and congratulated those students who had most notably succeeded in confounding their politicians.

Unhappily, however, a lifetime of ineffective campaigning (often against the editorial line of his own newspaper) left Tether embittered. Although he remained personally polite and even courtly, his writing became repetitive and increasingly shrill, as he accused his opponents of idiocy or even outright lying. Some of these columns his editors rejected, others he withheld rather than make the suggested changes.

Finally he asserted an absolute right to editorial immunity: he could put what he pleased in the column he had occupied for so long. This proved not to be negotiable: so the *Financial Times*, which until then had been a notably tolerant employer, offered him immediate retirement on full pay, and with full pensions rights. Tether treated this as an assault on freedom of speech, and went to a tribunal asserting unfair dismissal, but after a 45-day hearing this proved another lost cause.

Although he collected his unpublished columns in a book, and found a new platform for his views in *The Observer* for a year (and more recently in *The European*) his main career was effectively (and sadly) over.

He married Marjorie in 1938 and they were divorced in 1953, the year he married his second wife, Iris, who died in 1993. He is survived by two sons from his first marriage and a son and daughter from the second.

MILESTONES

Robert Simpson, composer, died on November 21 aged 76. He was born on March 2, 1921

Robert Simpson was one of the most prolific and rigorous British composers of the past 50 years. By nature a traditionalist, he found himself often at odds with the Modernists who came to dominate the postwar musical Establishment. His principles were eloquently stated not only in the symphonies and string quartets which form the backbone of his own output, but also in his work over many years as a somewhat beleaguered producer at BBC Radio 3, where he championed such composers as Nielsen and Bruckner.

Obituary published on November 22.

Michael Hutchence, rock singer, was found dead in his hotel room in Sydney on November 22 aged 37. He was born on January 22, 1960.

Coming from a middle-class Australian home, Michael Hutchence had a peripatetic childhood, living in Hong Kong, where he picked up his English accent, and Los Angeles. Back in Sydney in 1977, he became lead singer with a band known as the Farriss Brothers, which became INXS the following year. They developed a driving sound that combined rock, dance and soul, and spent the next four years travelling across Australia, playing up to 300 dates a year. Their best album, *Kick*, was in the British charts for more than two years at the end of the 1980s, but then fashion left them behind. Hutchence, however, remained in the tabloid eye as the lover of Kylie Minogue, Helena Christensen and eventually of Paula Yates, who last year bore his child, legally named Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily.

Obituary published on November 24.

Dr Hastings Banda, first President of Malawi, died on November 25. His death certificate declared him to have been 99.

Hastings Banda attended a Church of Scotland missionary school until, at the age of 12, he set off for South Africa, taking jobs as he walked the 1,000 miles. While working as a hospital cleaner he decided to become a doctor. By 1923 he had saved enough to go to the United States, and he became the only non-white student at the University of Chicago, taking a degree in history and political science. He qualified in medicine at Edinburgh and practised in Liverpool and North Shields, before settling down in 1949 as a National Health GP in Willesden. In the 1950s he was invited back to Nyasaland where he became president general of the Nyasaland African Congress, and in 1964 he became Prime Minister of the newly independent Malawi. He was unpopular with other African leaders because of his links with apartheid South Africa, and he crushed opposition ruthlessly. His long rule saw prosperity in his backward country increase, only to fall back at the end of the 1970s as commodity prices collapsed. He was ousted in 1994, in his country's first fully democratic elections for 33 years.

Obituary published on November 27.

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BATES, JOHN EDWARD of 47 North Drive, Cleadon Village, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear SR6 7SS died on 26 Ocober 1997; particulars to The Executor, Midland Bank Trust Company Limited, Probate Operations, 2nd Floor, Deacon House, 192 Eyre Street, Sheffield, S1 3RG before 31 January 1998.

DOIG, ALAN GEORGE CRAWFORD, PO Box 5646, Nairobi, Kenya, died 21st May 1997; particulars to Gouldens, Solicitors of 22 Tudor Street, London EC4Y 0JJ, before 30 January 1998.

HARRIS, ZONA of 34 Park Close, Ilchester Place, London W14 8NH died there on 25 August 1997 particulars to ROWE & MAW Solicitors of 20 BLACK FRIARS LANE, LONDON EC4V 6HD (Ref: 67/07700/1001) before 30 January 1998

MORISCO-TARR, RONALD LAWRENCE of 78 Durrants Drive, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire died on 20 October 1997 particulars to MATTHEW ARNOLD & BALDWIN Solicitors of PO Box 101, 20 STATION ROAD, WATFORD, HERTS WD1 1HT (Ref: ICD/ICD) before 30 January 1998 (Personal Representative: Mrs Margaret Mary Kinsella).

SONI, BHANU (also known as ASHOK) of 1 Fordson, Elms Lane, Sudbury, Middlesex died on 1 November 1997; particulars to LITTLEJOHN & CO Solicitors of 118 KENTON ROAD, KENTON, HARROW, MIDDLESEX HA3 8AN (Ref: MPV/NS/VEKARIA0) before 31 January 1998

WALKER, ROSE EMILY of 57 Basterfield House, Golden Lane Estate, London EC1Y 0TR died on 25 October 1997; particulars to The Executor, Midland Bank Trust Company Limited, Probate Operations, 2nd floor, Deacon House, 192 Eyre Street, Sheffield S1 3RG before 30 January 1998.

هكذا من الاصل

Gilts higher, equities suffer

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
565	407½	Allied Domecq†	534	+ 3	4.6	13.7
626	385	Bulmer (HP)	417½		4.3	11.6
75½	40½	Burn Stewart	49	+ 1	9.9	16.7
1040	865	Glenmorangie A	950		1.8	22.6
636	425½	Grand Met	539	- 9	3.5	17.3
639½	474	Guinness	537	12	3.6	14.8
380	280	Highland Dist	312½		3.6	14.1
336	213	Matthew Clark	234		12.8	7.0
105½	49½	Merydew W	50		7.9	12.3
2009½	1446½	SA Breweries	1446½	- 25	2.5	

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1521½	918½	ABN-AMRO	1140½	- 18½	2.7	16.6
1050	710	Abbey Ntl	945	+ 4	3.7	15.5
770	532½	Alliance & Leic	730	- 10	2.8	17.1
563	328½	Allied Irish	516½	- 3	3.5	14.7
516½	363½	Aus NZ	407½	- 2½	5.0	
4931½	2875	Bank America†	4340½	12½	...	
548	291½	Bank Scotland†	503	- 3	2.2	13.9
1800	978½	Barclays	1428	- 19	2.9	13.6
814½	517½	Bk of Ireland	800½	- 2	2.6	17.5
6953½	6006½	Citicorp	7068½	43½		
1758½	1268½	Commerzbk	1631½	9½	2.8	
567½	403½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	468½	- 18½	0.8	
4583½	2709½	Deutsche Bk	3828½	+ 31½	1.6	
1300	759½	Espirito Santo	1168½	9½	3.1	
347½	249	Fuji Bank Y	315	- 9	1.3	61.3
2369½	1272½	HSBC	1509	+ 3	3.8	12.2
2258½	1236	HSBC HK	1443	- 25	4.0	11.7
730	507	Halifax	680	+ 4	3.7	22.9
545	483½	Irish Perm	580	- 5	2.7	18.0
660½	424	Lloyds TSB	675	- 9	2.6	19.7
1008	869½	Nat Aust Bk	790½	- 4½	5.0	
1012½	663½	Nat West	898	- 9	4.2	14.2
504½	449	Northern Rock	481½	- ½	2.2	19.0
721½	508	Ryl Bk Scot	681	- 4	4.0	13.0
1090½	593½	Stand Chart	657½	- 17½	2.9	11.5
£164½	£164½	Wells Fargo	£164½		1.9	
403½	319½	Westpac	373½		3.9	
377½	267½	Woolwich	302½	+ 11½	3.3	17.9

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THE TIMES

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No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	MAM	Oth Fin	
2	Halifax	Banks	
3	Lex Service	Distrib's	
4	Vardon	Leisure	
5	Tinsley Robor	Print Pap	
6	Wethersp JD	Breweries	
7	Prestwick	Electronic	
8	Swire Pacific	Div Inds	
9	Enterprise	Oil & Gas	
10	Powerscreen	Engin'ing	
11	Canning (W)	Chemicals	
12	Blacks Leis	Ret Gen	
13	Bank Scotlan	Banks	
14	Firth Hldgs	Engin'ing	
15	Bunzl	Print Pap	
16	First Leisure	Leisure	
17	Berisford Intl	Engin'ing	
18	Ryland	Distrib's	
19	Warner	Property	
20	Abbey Ntl	Banks	
21	WSP Group	Sup Serv	
22	Vodafone	Telecomms	
23	BAA	Transport	
24	GEI Intl	Engin'ing	
25	Land Sec	Property	
26	Hickson	Chemicals	
27	Ind Control	Electronic	
28	Allied Domecq	Alc Bev	
29	Wtrfd Wdgwd	House Gds	
30	Black Arrow	House Gds	
31	Ransom (Wm)	Pharm'cals	
32	Astec	Electronic	
33	Utd Asurance	Insuranc	
34	App Holo	Print Pap	
35	Hydro-Elect	Elect'y	
36	Kewill Sys	Sup Serv	
37	Unigate	Food Man	
38	HK Land	Property	
39	Rubicon	Engin'ing	
40	Radius	Sup Serv	
41	Low & Bonar	Print Pap	
42	Dialog	Media	
43	Sngr & Fried	Oth Fin	
44	Cosalt	Div Inds	

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Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

Weekly accumulator total

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1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
67½	47½	Jerome (S)	48½		6.1	11.3
380	293	Jones Stroud	349		3.9	16.6
305	110	Lambert	305		4.9	13.7
195	116	Lamont†	136		11.8	11.3
173	105	Leeds	111½		7.6	8.3
38½	21½	Leslie Wise Gp	24		11.7	18.4
77	47	Lyles (S)†	72½		3.9	12.0
16½	7½	Marling	16½		1.5	62.9
8½	3½	PEX	3½			6.9
207½	164	Parkland	164		5.0	7.1
118	88	Pentland	102		4.4	15.3
103	89½	Pillards	89½		6.3	4.7
46½	35	Readicut	41½	- ½	7.7	13.6
45½	19½	Richards	35		7.1	
40½	20½	SEET	23½	+ 1		
48½	26½	Sherwood Gp	39		15.5	38.8

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

هكذا من الأصل

REVIVAL 30
Gentlemen's clubs are reinvented

BUSINESS

WEEKEND
MONEY
SECTION2 PAGES 51-64

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 29 1997

Cabinet backs plan to save coal industry

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT is looking at detailed plans to save the coal industry, amid the growing controversy over impending *pit closures and* the loss of thousands of jobs.

An initiative from No 10 Downing Street looks at measures to ensure the industry's survival over the next five to seven years. These could include pushing up coal stocks at electricity generators and altering the balance of use between gas and coal.

Richard Caborn, Minister for the Regions and John Prescott's number two at the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, has been given a key role. The move reflects the Cabinet's concern over the coal crisis in the wake of warnings from the Deputy Prime Minister on the consequences of allowing the industry go to the wall.

Measures to support coal over the medium term would not halt all the pit closures expected to be *announced soon* by RJB Mining, the UK's biggest coal producer. But they would ensure the future of the industry and about 40,000 jobs. Next year 10,000 jobs could go — 5,000 from pit closures and 5,000 in related industries.

Mr Caborn *has* been involved not only as Mr Prescott's right-hand man but because he chaired the last Trade and Industry committee on coal. He is also in charge of opencast mining policy. Labour sources say that many of the recommendations from the committee's inquiry will be reinstated. They include making the generators stockpile coal and giving government support to clean-coal technology — ways to reduce coal's emissions in generation.

The move takes the issue beyond the Department of Trade and Industry, which has been widely criticised for not establishing an energy policy and for allowing the present crisis to develop without offering any future for coal. The looming pit closures have been triggered by a fall in *the market* for *RJB's* coal as generators have switched to gas or imported coal or bought it from smaller producers.

Mr Caborn is believed to have given warning that if nothing is done for coal now then the Government would face another crisis when the *bulk of RJB's new contracts* expire in three years, close to a general election.

The Government is looking at maintaining deep-mine coal production at about 20 million tonnes a year over the next five to seven years, compared with 31 million tonnes this year. *After three years it is expected* market demand for coal will drop to ten million tonnes. So the Government is looking at providing a need for ten million extra tonnes a year.

Ironically for RJB, some of the extra need for deep-mined coal could come from a reduction in opencast coal, an operation in which the company is strongly involved.

Mr Caborn is expected to report soon on new planning provisions needed for opencast mining, which is detested by environmentalists. He is likely to tighten requirements, which would lead to a gradual reduction in output from opencast pits.

☐ Yesterday RJB made 78 miners redundant at Clip*stone colliery in Nottingham*shire as it reduced output. It asked for volunteers but said that it would make selections if not enough men came forward.

The move is seen by the unions as reassuring for the future of the colliery since yesterday's *cuts* would not have been made if a full closure was in the offing.

RJB meets on Monday to start drafting plans for the closure of collieries.

There was confusion yesterday over whether RJB, represented by Richard Budge, its chief executive, will be at next week's Trade and Industry committee investigation into coal. The committee had not invited the company to attend because it had asked the trade assocation to attend instead. But a spokesman for Martin O'Neill, the committee chairman, said that Mr Budge could appear if he wanted.

Commentary, page 29

Budge: confusion

Fortune fades: the share price fall wiped £9.25 million off Alan Sugar's Viglen stake

Viglen less sweet for Sugar

By Fraser Nelson

ALAN SUGAR, the founder of Amstrad, yesterday saw £9.25 million wiped from the value of his remaining holding in Viglen Technology after the newly demerged PC-maker warned the market that it was suffering from stiff competition in the Christmas market.

The warning, which comes three months after Viglen's market debut, sent its shares down 31 per cent to 50p. This leaves the company worth £61 million, compared with its £73 million value at the time of the demerger.

It said it was still selling about 85,000 computers a year, but blamed "oversupply of components" for a drop in profits. City analysts now expect the company to make £11.5 million profit this year, against the £12.4 million expected when the company floated. Viglen singled out the drop in memory chip prices, saying the cost of the Ram memory used for its computers has plunged 35 per cent in the past month.

Mr Sugar planned to cut his holding from 33 per cent to 10 per cent, but changed his mind in August, saying the 60p issue price was too cheap. His decision has cost him £4.1 million.

Viglen started off in the home of Vig Boyd and Len Davis, Armenian computer engineers, in 1965. It was bought by Amstrad three years ago and demerged in August.

Tempus, page 31

Walker Wingsail chairman confident of victory

By Paul Durman

HUNDREDS of small investors in Walker Wingsail Systems, which has spent £12 million developing boats with metal sails, have rallied to support John Walker in his battle against an attempt to force him to resign as the company's chairman.

Mr Walker, who has spent *much of the past 30 years* working on his idea, is confident of defeating a group of dissident shareholders at today's annual meeting at the Devonport naval dockyard in Plymouth.

He said yesterday that he had received about 1,200 proxy votes backing the adoption of the latest Walker Wingsail accounts, and only 200 against.

Mr Walker is expecting about 330 shareholders to turn up to today's meeting, which, at the eleventh hour, has been moved to a specially erected marquee within the dockyard itself. Although his opponents include some of the company's wealthier and larger shareholders, he still expects to win comfortably.

Once helped along the way with backing from Prudential, Walker Wingsail has struggled for years to commercialise the wingsail technology — aircraft-style wings which, when mounted vertically and controlled by computer, are said to make sailing easier.

His critics complain of Mr Walker's repeated failure to keep to his business plan forecasts, which has required him to regularly return to shareholders for more money. Walker Wingsail has about 6,700 investors — more than some quoted companies. Many seem to be engineers or others excited by the potential of the wingsail idea.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	4831.8	(-57.2)
Yield	3.37%	
FTSE All share	2288.64	(-20.33)
Nikkei	16636.26	(+33.06)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7823.13	(+28.35)
S&P Composite	955.40	(+3.76)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	$5\frac{5}{8}\%$	(unq)
Long Bond	$101\frac{5}{32}$	(...)
Yield	6.05%	(...)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	$7\frac{5}{8}\%$	($7\frac{5}{8}\%$)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	$119\frac{1}{16}$	($118\frac{17}{32}$)
STERLING		
New York:		
$	1.6873	(unq)
London:		
$	1.6848	(1.6745)
DM	2.9717	(2.9541)
FFr	9.9461	(9.8854)
SFr	2.4020	(2.3636)
Yen	215.02	(212.61)
£ Index	105.0	(104.4)
DOLLAR		
London:		
DM	1.7651	(unq)
FFr	5.9070	(...)
SFr	1.4255	(...)
Yen	127.03	(...)
$ Index	107.3	(107.2)
Tokyo close Yen 127.66		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Feb)	$18.90	($18.70)
GOLD		
London close	$296.95	($296.00)

Further woe at Laura Ashley

THE WOES of Laura Ashley continued yesterday after Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the fashion and textile retailer's house broker, warned the market that the company will face a £15 million loss this year — double the £7 million it was expected to lose.

The downgrade triggered a further 8.7 per cent plunge in the shares, which closed at 41p, as City analysts began to fear a serious cashflow crisis which can only be resolved through a rescue rights issue.

Errors in 29% of DIY tax forms

By Clare Stewart

AROUND 29 per cent of the new self-assessment tax forms have been incorrectly completed, according to the Inland Revenue. Six per cent — or 300,000 *forms* — have had to be returned to taxpayers.

The level of errors will renew concern over the complexity of the new forms, although the Revenue said that errors on 1.15 million forms were minor, and were corrected by staff. On forms returned, errors included simple mistakes such as the taxpayer forgetting to sign it.

The Revenue has played down fears that taxpayers are struggling to understand self assessment. With five million forms returned out of eight million sent out in April, a spokesman said: "We are pleased with progress." The Revenue had estimated that up to 45 per cent of forms might be wrongly completed, with up to 10 per cent *having to be sent back*.

Tokyo looks at banking bailout

From Carl Mortished in Tokyo

THE Japanese Government is considering a major restructuring of the Trust Fund Bureau, the body responsible for financing large infrastructure projects, to secure funds to bail out Japan's troubled banking industry.

Officials in the Ministry of Finance are believed to be looking at a number of options that could include the sale of land holdings.

The Trust Fund Bureau, which is under the authority of the ministry, has backed huge infrastructure projects with funding from postal savings and pensions. However, it is believed that a substantial *number of the loans are not* paying interest. Some Y55 trillion (£250 billion) is believed to be under water.

The ministry is believed to be keen to use the Trust Fund Bureau and its postal savings money to help to restructure the debt-laden banking industry, which recently suffered four failures, including that of Yamaichi Securities.

Use of postal savings to shore up problem banks would meet with opposition. The Trust Fund Bureau's bad debts need to be addressed to secure more funds from postal savings. The Finance Ministry is believed to be considering packaging the debts and shifting them to the General Account. No decisions have been made, but one possibility is a change in legislation that would permit the sale of forestry and valuable land holdings.

The Government's dilemma stems from high levels of public debt and fears that *weakness in the financial* sector could raise the cost of public borrowing. Observers believe that Japan faces a growing crisis because the current level of long-term debt is believed to be nearing ten times the level of retained tax earnings. The equivalent US *multiple* is 4-5 times.

Barclays shuts BZW in Japan

By Gavin Lumsden

BARCLAYS has announced the closure of the Japanese equities arm of BZW, the investment banking division it is in the process of selling, with the loss of 100 jobs.

The move reduces the bank's staff in Japan to 450. Barclays insisted the move was a direct result of its decision to sell the equity, capital markets and mergers and acquisition activities of BZW last month.

The bank has already come under fire for selling BZW's European business to Credit Suisse First Boston at a low price of £100 million. It said it *had been unable to get a good* price for the Japanese equities business because it had not included its membership of Japan's three main stock exchanges in the deal. However, the bank is in talks with several banks interested in buying BZW's Asian and Australasian businesses.

A WEEK IN THE CITY

Whichever way you turned, the company that brews a certain Irish stout was in the news as the report into the *infamous Guinness* affair finally saw the light of day 11 years after the Distillers takeover, while the Guinness corporate name was voted into oblivion after 240 years.

Monday saw a member of the reclusive Barclay family make a rare public appearance, although it was neither of the Barclay twins, David and Frederick, but David's son, Aidan.

Barclay *fils* took the *stand* at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court in an attempt to persuade the gaming authorities *to grant* a new casino licence to the Ritz, the £75 million jewel in the Barclays' crown, when London Clubs moves out next year.

A decision is not due until next month, but the opposition of the Gaming Board means the odds are stacked *against him*.

The City felt the effects of the mounting crisis in Japan, as Yamaichi, the country's fourth largest broker, collapsed under a Y3.2 trillion (£15 billion) mountain of debt. The crash, announced by a sobbing Shohei Nozawa, president of Yamaichi, sent a chill through world financial markets, and spelt the end of 300 jobs at the firm's *London HQ*.

In the circumstances, the rejection by Allied Colloids of a £1.1 billion bid from *Hercules*, a rival chemicals group from America, created comparatively few ripples.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, took a further step in his efforts to woo big business by unveiling plans to abolish advance corporation tax and cut the rate of corporation tax in his pre-Budget speech to the Commons. The welcome his comments received was in marked contrast to the treat*ment his calls for pay re*straint received from the Post Office: it announced a 4 per cent pay deal with its 160,000 mail workers.

Not so lucky were the 5,000 or so miners who are expected to be given their marching *orders* before Christmas as *RJB* Mining closes more pits.

The Guinness EGM on Wednesday to approve the £23 billion merger with Grand Metropolitan became a vehicle for disgruntled shareholders keen to attack Tony Greener, chairman, over the choice of Diageo as the new drinks behemoth's name.

However, a rather embarrassing split vote in the audience failed to make a dent on the overwhelming support of proxy votes.

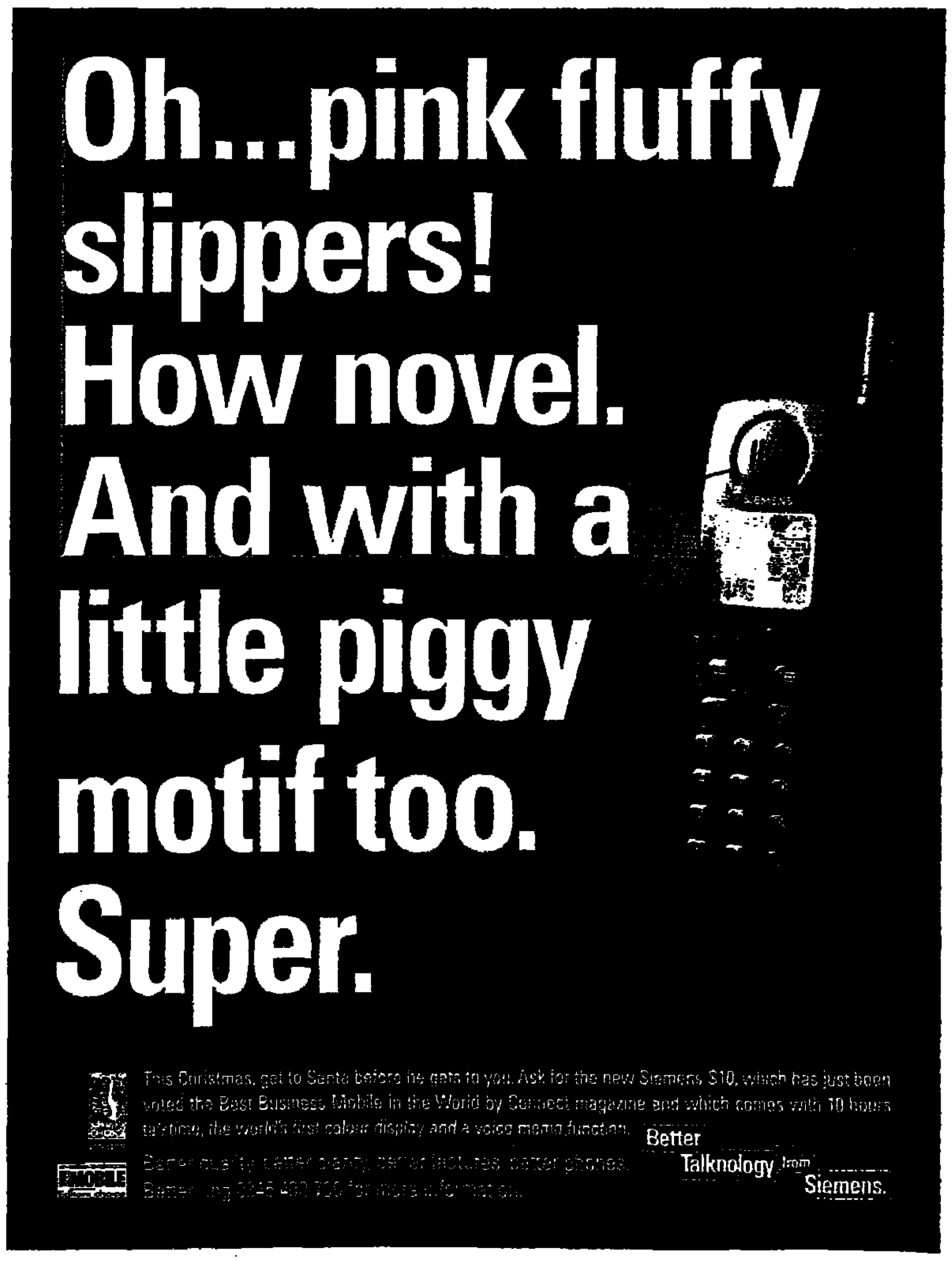
The next day, ironically the same day as the annual Guinness and oysters bash at Mansion House, saw the publication of the eagerly awaited report into the 1986 Distillers scandal. As expected, Ernest Saunders, the former Guinness chief executive, came in for a pounding, but of greater significance was the doubt cast by the report over the evidence given by David Mayhew, a senior partner in Cazenove, the blue-blooded City stockbroking firm.

In a damning indictment of the integrity of the City, the report — watered down from earlier drafts — went on to refer to "the cynical disregard of laws and regulations; the cavalier misuse of company moneys and a contempt for truth and common honesty".

The week ended in the same part of the world as it had started, as Barclays announced plans to close its Japanese equities *business* with the loss of 100 jobs.

Dominic Walsh

SIEMENS


Oh...pink fluffy slippers! How novel. And with a little piggy motif too. Super.

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Volatile market holds no fears for Energis chief

By Raymond Snoddy

SHARES in Energis are due to begin trading on December 9 against a backdrop of world market volatility and after a sharp drop in the share price of Ionica, the innovative telecoms company that floated during the summer.

Mike Grabiner, the chief executive of Energis, has just emerged from a fortnight's roadshow that has taken him to London, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Paris and Frankfurt, *drumming up support* for the issue. He remains optimistic about how the offering of 26 per cent of the company is being received.

"There is significant interest regardless of the markets," he said. "I think it is a good investment story and people are treating it as such."

He can also point to the significant differences between Energis and Ionica, which is using radio to target mainly the residential market and has fallen from grace, at least temporarily, in the City because of delays in rolling out its network.

"We are very much stressing that we are at a very advanced stage of development," he added. As a company aiming entirely at the business sector, rather than the residential market, the Energis chief executive believes the comparisions should be with telecommunications companies such as Colt or WorldCom, rather than Ionica.

The book on Energis closes on December 8 and the shares of the company begin trading the next day on both the London Stock Exchange and on Nasdaq.

Because of its parent, National Grid, Energis was able to build a high-capacity, low-cost, fibre-optic network carried on electricity pylons. Since signing up its first customer in March 1994, Energis now provides services at more than 35,000 sites for customers ranging from Boots and Microsoft to Mirror Group Newspapers, and Virgin Atlantic to the BBC, which has a ten-year, £100 million contract.

Its strategy has been to target first individual companies and use them as a lead into sectors. The Energis relationship with Boots, for example, started as a contract worth about £1 million a year. This increased to £2.5 million when more sites and services were added. Now Energis provides Boots with a high-speed data network linking 1,300 sites and supporting everything from credit-card verification to loyalty cards, a contract worth £5 million a year.

Energis shares are being offered in the 250p to 325p range, valuing the enterprise at between £815 million and £962 million — noticeably below some people's original hopes that it might be worth a nice round £1 billion.

In the six months to September 30 Energis had revenues of £69.2 million and gross earnings of £2.1 million, against a loss of £11.1 million on comparable terms in the first half of 1996-97.

Analysts say the final valuation will be affected both by market conditions and some niggles that selling off spare capacity will take Energis too far away from its core high-margin business and towards commodity telecoms.

Andrew Moffat, telecommunications analyst at Société Générale, the broker, said: "I think Energis is a good business. It represents fairly good value at the lower end of the range, but a bit rich at the upper end."

Mike Grabiner, left, with Chris Hibbert, finance director

Peregrine blames poor trading for 275 layoffs

By Our Financial Staff

PEREGRINE Investments has laid off about 275 staff from its worldwide operations because of poor market conditions across Asia.

Most of the affected staff worked outside Hong Kong or were based in the region specialising in markets excluding Greater China, the investment banking group said in a statement. The cost of the losses would be taken as an exceptional item in the year to November 30, 1997, it said.

Peregrine said: "While volatility was beginning to subside in Asia's debt and equity markets, trading volumes were shrinking on the back of decreased liquidity. The group anticipates these conditions will persist, which has resulted in the action taken."

Peregrine Investments said last month that net profits in its equity products business for the period January 1 to October 24 had fallen by about HK$178 million (£13.8 million) to about HK$124 million because of trading losses. However, it said there was no truth in rumours that it might be in serious financial trouble and suffer a loss of up to US$1 billion (£600 million).

Peregrine also announced this month that Zurich Centre Investments, the private equity arm of the Zurich Group, had agreed to invest US$200 million in the company.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

West Bromwich to cut mortgage rates

THE West Bromwich Building Society is to cut its mortgage rate by 0.25 percentage points to 8.2 per cent from Monday. The society is also lifting rates for savers by 0.25 points across the board. In spite of the recent increases in base rates, the West Bromwich's proposed changes fulfil a pledge that was made at the society's annual meeting in July. The change in mortgage rate applies to holders of variable rate loans.

The society is also offering about half its 400,000 members who have held accounts for more than two years a privileged membership package, which includes benefits such as commission-free holiday money, discounted travel insurance and preferential rates on unsecured personal loans. The rate changes bring the West Bromwich back into line with other building societies, a spokesman said. The move may also be seen as a measure to reinforce customer loyalty to the building society, which has been tipped as a possible takeover target.

Bristol Water vote call

BRISTOL WATER wants to throw the next pricing plan open to customer comment in the wake of signals from the regulator that there could be a substantial one-off cut in bills. Bristol wants to ask customers whether they would want all the reduction as cash off their bills or whether they would prefer some to be spent on environmental improvements or improved services. Ian Byatt, the regulator, has begun consultations for his next price review, due in 2000. It is thought he could impose a one-off cut of more than 10 per cent on bills. Bristol Water lifted pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 7 per cent to £7.8 million. The interim dividend, payable on February 10, is up 9.6 per cent to 17.15p.

New chief for generator

BRITISH ENERGY has filled its chief executive gap following the departure in June of Bob Hawley. The new boss at the nuclear generator will be Peter Hollins, who joins from ICI. He was responsible for polymers at European Vinyls Corporation, a joint venture between ICI and Enichem. Mr Hollins will join British Energy in February. John Robb, the generator's chairman, said: "I am confident that he has the skills and experience necessary to lead British Energy in the next stages of its development."

Midlands repays £22m

MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY is to give £22 million in customer rebates next year in an effort to retain customers before competition is introduced in the domestic market. Midlands said it would give £10 per household as it fired a warning shot against an investigation by the industry regulators into electricity companies offering gas. It said the "dual fuel" inquiry could stifle competition. Gas companies complain that some electricity companies are engaging in predatory pricing in the gas market, which opens to competition before electricity.

Toyota still undecided

TOYOTA, the Japanese car group, is expected to announce in the new year if its planned new small European car will be built at its British plant at Burnaston, Derbyshire. Toyota was responding to suggestions that it would instead choose a French plant for the new car. Toyota GB said: "No decision has yet been taken." The new car is scheduled to be launched in 1999 and will resemble the Japanese-built Starlet. Toyota has invested heavily at Burnaston in the Nineties. The company will launch the Avensis, which will be built there, in January.

Clowes charged with accounting offences

By Our City Staff

PETER CLOWES, the disgraced former financier who was given a ten-year jail sentence for defrauding investors of £16 million, has now been charged with accounting offences.

The 53-year-old former millionaire has been charged with two offences of false accounting and bailed to appear next month before magistrates at Macclesfield, Cheshire, where he now lives. The charges are believed to be connected with claims for benefits.

Clowes' firm, Barlow Clowes International, collapsed in 1988 owing investors £190 million.

He was freed from prison early last year after serving four years. When he returned to live with his family in a terraced cottage in Macclesfield, he vowed to work to repay investors who had lost their savings in the collapse.

Early this year, Clowes, who was living on income support, said he was developing a computer project that he had devised in jail. He said that if he ever made money from the plan, it would go to the people who lost out in the Barlow Clowes crash.

Abbot wins Azerbaijan contract

ABBOT said its subsidiary, KCA Drilling, had been awarded a $32 million (£19 million) flagship contract by the Azerbaijan International Operating Company for the drilling platform for the development of the Azeri Chirag and Guneshli offshore fields (Our City Staff writes).

The work covers the provision and initial three years of operation of drilling facilities on two platforms. A letter of limited award has been signed to cover the initial 30 to 40-day period required until the formal contract is prepared and signed.

Arbitron moves into UK to bid for radio contract

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

ARBITRON, a large American market research group, is moving into the UK through the purchase of Continental Research, the British market research group specialising in the media and communications.

The acquisition is the first stage of Arbitron's plans to expand beyond the North American market, where it supplies research for television and radio stations as well as cable and advertising agencies.

Arbitron plans to use the Continental purchase to launch a bid for the UK radio industry audience research contract that is going to be put out for tender in the next few months by RAJAR, the combined-industry ratings organisation.

At the same time as Arbitron is making its move into the UK market, Taylor Nelson AGB, one of the UK's leading ratings organisations, has been moving in the opposite direction by trying to establish a foothold in the North American television ratings measuring business. Under the deal with Continental, the organisation will retain its name, while its founder-directors and senior management will continue to manage the UK business.

Last year Arbitron, part of the Ceridian Corporation, the information services group, had revenues of $153.1 million (£91.7 million). The largest Arbitron division, Arbitron Radio, measures and analyses radio audiences and consumer behaviour in 268 local markets.

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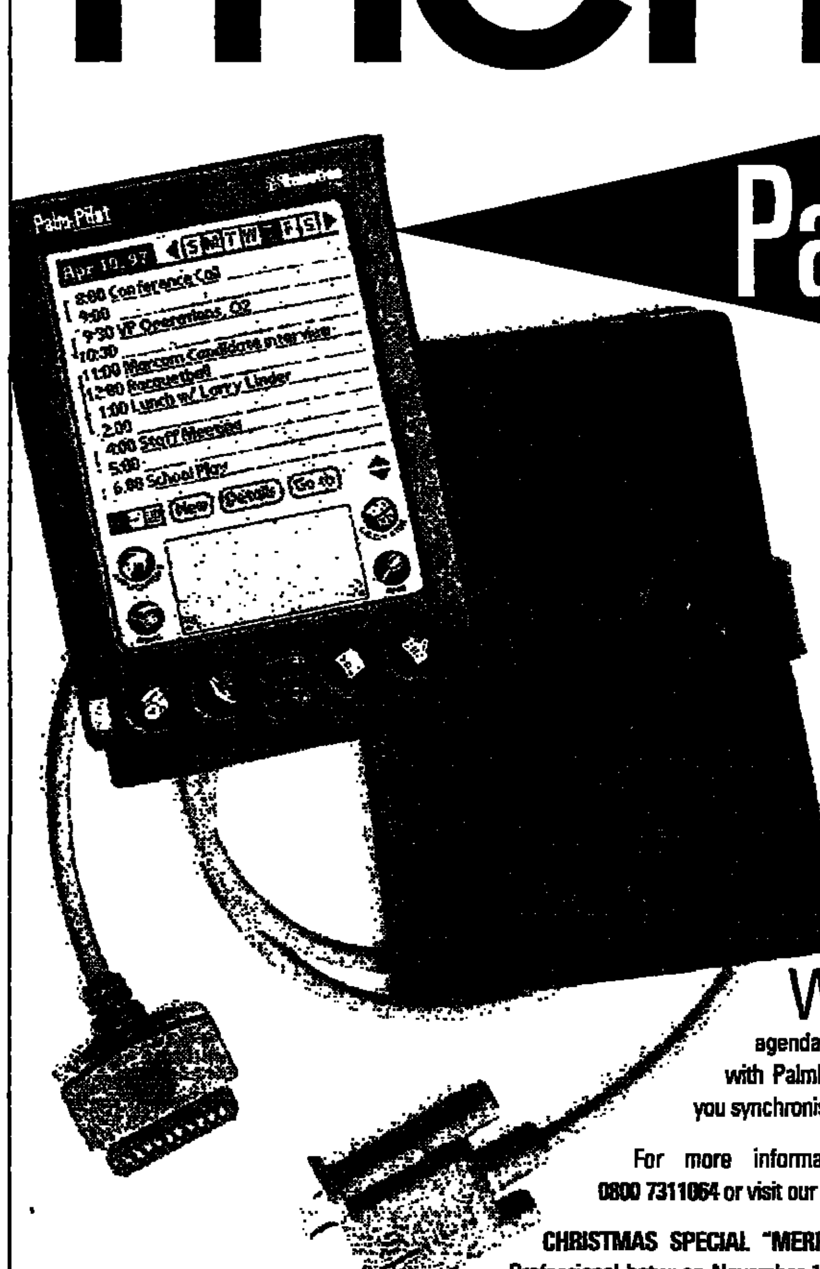
Palm Pilot



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XMAS-UK 04

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3Com

Cliveden to open Edinburgh hotel

By Dominic Walsh

CLIVEDEN, the luxury hotel group, is to buy a Grade A listed building in Edinburgh's St Andrew Square for development as a 64-bedroom hotel and health club. Total cost of the project is estimated at about £12 million.

The company is acquiring the Victorian building from Scottish Equitable, subject to planning consent. It is thought to be paying close to the £5 million asking price. About £7 million will be spent converting it into a five-star hotel, with its own underground carpark and a separate health club. John Tham, managing director of Cliveden, said the group continued to seek acquisition opportunities. It was still "looking hard" for a site in Paris and was the preferred developer for a palace in Prague, pending the outcome of a legal battle over the property's ownership.

Since its flotation in April 1996, the group has added the Royal Crescent in Bath and the Cliveden Town House in central London. It has also developed a country club at the eponymous Buckinghamshire stately home, made famous by the Profumo affair of the Sixties.

Paramount in the red

By Dominic Walsh

BAD debts and payoffs to directors and staff pushed Paramount, the troubled pub operator, into the red by £1.4 million in the year to May 31.

The company's new management, installed in July, also announced that a financial review had shown the previous year's results to be overstated by £1 million, resulting in a loss in 1996 of £7.39 million.

Most of those losses were *property value writedowns*, with the extra £1 million being a provision for bad debt.

John Dangerfield, finance director, said that tight credit controls had been put in place to prevent further bad debts, although these had resulted in a 5 per cent decline in sales to £5.6 million.

He added that Paramount was now trading profitably and was considering a range of ways to expand the company from its present estate of 115 tenanted pubs.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.56	2.38
Austria Sch	21.85	20.19
Belgium Fr	64.32	59.38
Canada $	2.514	2.326
Cyprus Cyp£	0.911	0.839
Denmark Kr	11.87	10.96
Finland Mkk	9.51	8.76
France Fr	10.38	9.60
Germany Dm	3.13	2.88
Greece Dr	491	452
Hong Kong $	13.81	12.81
Iceland	121	101
Ireland Pt	1.19	1.10
Israel Shk	6.33	5.68
Italy Lira	3079	2842
Japan Yen	229.23	211.70
Malta	0.685	0.626
Netherlds Gld	3.530	3.235
New Zealand $	2.88	2.64
Norway Kr	12.68	11.74
Portugal Esc	315.03	293.00
S Africa Rd	8.86	7.90
Spain Pta	261.79	243.00
Sweden Kr	13.78	12.68
Switzerland Fr	2.55	2.33
Turkey Lira	333457	313579
USA $	1.785	1.642

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"When Tsugio Yukihira, Yamaichi's former chairman, admitted: "If my company had disclosed problem assets, it would not have been able to survive," it was a nasty reminder of just how murky Japanese finance can be . . ."

Garth Alexander examines whether enough is being done to sort out Japan's problems. Business, The Sunday Times, tomorrow

Good news for NatWest savers

NatWest announces the following interest rates, effective from 1 December 1997:

Savings

	Gross Rate per annum (%)	Gross C.A.R. (%)	Net Rate per annum (%)
Millennium Bond Two year term - minimum £2,000			
Annual Income/Growth	7.20	7.20	5.76
Monthly Income	6.95	6.95	5.56
TESSA Reserve Tax Free Savings - No Minimum Balance	7.25	7.45	N/A
Crown Reserve 3 Month Notice - interest paid quarterly			
£250,000 +	6.85	7.03	5.48
£100,000 – £249,999	6.70	6.87	5.36
£50,000 – £99,999	6.40	6.56	5.12
Below £50,000, gross rates are the same as Diamond Reserve			
Diamond Reserve 1 Month Notice - interest paid monthly			
£100,000 +	6.55	6.75	5.24
£50,000 – £99,999	6.25	6.43	5.00
£25,000 – £49,999	5.50	5.64	4.40
£10,000 – £24,999	5.00	5.12	4.00
£2,000 – £9,999	4.45	4.54	3.56
Reward Reserve* Instant Access - basic interest paid quarterly			
£10,000 +	6.35	6.43	5.08
£2,000 – £9,999	6.10	6.17	4.88
Premium Reserve Instant Access - Interest paid quarterly			
£50,000 +	5.05	5.15	4.04
£25,000 – £49,999	4.95	5.04	3.96
£10,000 – £24,999	4.60	4.68	3.68
£2,000 – £9,999	4.35	4.42	3.48
First Reserve Instant Access - interest paid quarterly			
£1,000 +	3.85	3.91	3.08
£500 – £999	3.60	3.65	2.88
£250 – £499	2.50	2.52	2.00
£100 – £249	2.35	2.37	1.88
£1 – £99	2.25	2.27	1.80

The rates for all other personal savings accounts remain unchanged.
Where appropriate, lower rate tax (currently 20%) will be deducted at source from interest credited or paid (which may be reclaimed by resident non-taxpayers). Otherwise (for example, subject to the required registration form), interest will be paid gross.
The Gross Rate is the rate paid before deducting income tax.
The Gross Compounded Annual Rate (C.A.R.) is the rate where gross interest payments are retained in the account during the year.
The Net Rate is the rate paid after the deduction of lower rate income tax, currently at 20%.
*The gross rate and the gross C.A.R. for the Reward Reserve account include quarterly interest rewards of 1.50% gross per annum and an annual interest reward of 0.50% gross per annum. Quarterly rewards are payable provided the account balance does not fall below £2,000 and no more than one withdrawal is made in any quarter. Annual rewards are payable provided the account remains in credit and no more than three withdrawals are made in any year. Should you close your account during a quarterly or annual period, you will not receive any quarterly or annual reward for that period.
For details of other interest rates please ask at your local branch. All rates are subject to variation.

NatWest

National Westminster Bank Plc, 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP

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Earl of the Dome

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

A few cynics in Brussels have come to the view that Bernie Ecclestone may have been bluffing when he warned that, without tobacco sponsorship, Formula One and its attendant industries would flee the country, leaving desolation in their wake.

But Tony Blair was convinced by the eloquent Mr Ecclestone. A hefty cheque did not cloud his vision at all, even if it has now had to be returned. The problem is simply one of perception. Mr Ecclestone gave generously to Labour: he received a reprieve for Formula One. The two events are unconnected, but the juxtaposition looks bad, and appearances count, as new Labour has been reminded.

So I am intrigued by word that reaches me from Greenwich, where the struts of the Millennium Dome are now reaching skywards. It seems that Robert Earl, the millionaire restaurateur who so kindly handed Labour the cash to repay Mr Ecclestone, may want to open one of his establishments within the Dome. Assuming that there is to be some competition for catering sites in what is aiming to be a huge tourist attraction, a perception problem could be looming for Mr Earl, proprietor of the Planet Hollywood chain.

His rivals in the restaurant business, and there are many, would surely waste no time in pointing out that he had made his £1 million donation to the Labour Party and then been ushered into the Dome. When potentially valuable contracts are at stake, business tacticians do not always feel obliged to restrict themselves to blows above the belt.

To Mr Earl, £1 million is pocket money. If he wanted to buy influence, he could certainly afford to be more generous, since his empire is now estimated to be worth about £800 million. But if he does have thoughts of opening up at the Dome, he will face a tricky public relations problem.

Planet Hollywood, anyhow, may not be the most appropriate format for the Millennium Dome, given its roots in American cinema rather than British history.

He broke into the catering business with a Beefeater banqueting hall. Perhaps a variant on that would be more suited to the Dome than a US-style burger café, although it might fall foul of the Cool Britannia mood.

For the time being, most of us remain entirely in the dark as to what will eventually go inside the Dome. The new exhibition that has just opened in Greenwich attempts to give a flavour of the project without giving any indications as to what delights will eventually be on offer. But Mr Earl should know a little more, since he has already been offering advice to Peter Mandelson on his pet project.

It would be a shame if his donation were to preclude him from being able to extend his early enthusiasm into taking part in the fun and games that will eventually be on offer. But all those who make political donations will now be in danger of being precluded from situations where they might appear even tangentially to have bought a place at the table.

Getting out of the coal hole

The Government is busy firefighting over coal, after being caught unawares at the depth of feeling stirred by the prospect of thousands of job losses and the end of the industry.

It is now doing what it should have done several months ago and shaping some sort of energy policy which provides both a role for coal and an idea of its future.

It is unbelievable that Labour should have let the issue explode in the way in which it has. The manner in which it has tried to fight the criticism has also been deeply cynical. The Department of Trade and Industry's spin sheet for ministers advised them to blame the crisis on the Tories. It said: "The least painful press option is to present, sympathetically, the facts of the real position that this Government has inherited. This has the great advantage of being true."

But as the Government, Labour has the ability to alter the circumstances it has inherited. We have had the ridiculous situation of John Battle blaming the Conservatives for approving too many gas-fired power stations, while then happily approving them himself.

What emerges from the No 10 inspired initiative to provide the foundations for a coal industry over the medium term should bring some sensibility to energy and should help to create a diverse, sustainable and secure mix that Mr Battle has always advanced but has done nothing to achieve.

It is not surprising that furore has greeted the crisis in coal. It has not just stemmed from the emotive prospect of miners losing their jobs under a Labour Government. It has arisen because Labour had promised a more considered approach to the very long-term issue of energy than simply throwing up its hands and saying we are in a free market now. Coal is a resource the UK is well blessed with. But once closed, mines are not easily reopened. In addition to the huge employment consequences, it is folly to leave the UK's energy needs to the whim of a market which is leading us to heavy dependence on imported gas.

The DTI had thought it could manage the controversy with its spin sheet of pat comments. It comprehensively failed. If the Energy Minister had mustered more convincing performances it may not have failed in such an embarrassing manner. If mutterings in the higher Labour echelons prove prophetic, Mr Battle may next year join thousands of miners next year — in looking for a new job.

Richemont makes fashion statement

It is reassuring to know that while financial chaos hits the Far East, Cartier and Chloë retain their appeal. Richemont is providing ample demonstration of its faith in the continuance of demand for luxury brands by bidding so generously for the minority in Vendôme.

The South African company only ever parted with a minority of shares in this adjunct to its tobacco business. Now it wants the lot and perhaps it is right in its view that these international names can best be nurtured in the safety of privacy. Outside shareholders have a nasty habit of losing faith in a brand when it temporarily stumbles.

But it is puzzling why Richemont should have come to this conclusion now, having clearly felt differently just four years ago when it floated the business. As the figures it produced earlier this week showed, the company is hardly suffering from its status. Stella McCartney, the Beatles daughter, is doing wonders with the Chloë label that had rather languished in the last years of Karl Lagerfield's reign and profits were up by almost a third.

The Dunhill brand is looking a little jaded, according to some style-conscious critics, but the Vendôme stable boasts a host of other up-market names that seem destined to survive well into the next century. On that basis, it is tempting to assume that Richemont believes that there are good times ahead and that the price that looks superficially generous is nothing of the kind.

Netted

FEARS that the Internet is lawless have again been dented. BT, Marks & Spencer, Ladbroke, Sainsbury and Virgin have together won a high court injunction against two firms that set up a cottage industry registering domain names for websites and e-mail using famous names and then tried to sell them to the offended parties. Instead, they must hand them over free. Protecting copyrights may be harder, but will surely come.

Hornby on fast track to parents

By Our City Staff

SHARES in Hornby, the model railway group, rose 2½p to 171p despite a fall in half-year profits from £1.1 million to £973,000 on sales down from £13 million to £11 million in the first half.

The fall was put down to the discontinuation of radio-controlled and toy products. Like for like, Hornby says that the pre-tax profit on its core products is ahead of last year.

Debts fell, reducing the interest charge from £4.5 million to £1.7 million in the six months to September 30. An unchanged interim dividend of 2.0p a share is to be paid.

Hornby says that it is has shifted the focus of its marketing to target the adult enthusiast, rather than children. Hornby is applying a similar philosophy to its other main product, Scalextric racing car games.

Peter Newey, chairman, said: "How do you define a toy? In the main they are bought by mature men, not by children. They go to collectors or enthusiasts who put them into model layouts.

"Most of our sets are bought by men for their sons in anticipation of playing with them themselves, I am sure."

The most popular train model is the Inter-City 125, but Hornby has updated its range to include the liveries of newcomers such as Virgin and GNER.

Favourites such as the Flying Scotsman are joined by miniature versions of their modern equivalents such as the Eurostar and even the suburban commuter Networker in service on the Chiltern Line.

The switch of emphasis away from the traditional toy market helped the group to offset the effects of the strong pound, which have hit exports of Scalextric, and its decision to drop production of radio-controlled toys.

Richemont to spend £1bn buying Vendôme shares

By George Sivell

RICHEMONT, the Swiss company that owns 70 per cent of Vendôme, the luxury goods group that supplies the Cartier, Chloe and Purdey brands, plans to buy the shares that it does not own for 495p each. Vendôme shares soared from 393½p to 472½p in response (Commentary, see this page).

Vendôme was floated on the stock market at about 300p in 1993 after a reconstruction of the tobacco and luxury goods business of Rothmans, Dunhill and Richemont. The 30 per cent minority is held largely by institutions.

The £1.036 billion buyback values the whole of Vendôme at £3.45 billion. It remains subject to approval by the other shareholders and the Vendôme board. Richemont said that a financing commitment for the full amount of the cash consideration had been provided by Deutsche Bank.

Richemont added, however, that it might decide not to proceed with the proposals in the event of any further collapse in the world markets that could have a "material adverse impact" on the business of Vendôme. However, Richemont will still pay Vendôme shareholders the proposed interim dividend of 3.7p a share.

Vendôme luxury goods brands include Cartier, Alfred Dunhill, Montblanc, Piaget, Baume & Mercier, Vacheron, Constantin, Lancel and Chloe.

JEAN CHRISTOPHE KAHN

Stella McCartney, chief designer at Chloe, one of the brands supplied by Richemont

It is likely that the Vendôme board will appoint a committee of independent directors to consider Richemont's proposals and advise minority unitholders, Richemont said.

Richemont's said that it was taking Vendôme private because it now believed that it was finally strong enough to finance further investment in the company. Richemont's offer of 495p per share unit represents a premium of 25.8 per cent of the closing price of Vendôme on November 27 and a multiple of 18.7 times Vendôme's earnings for the year to March 31.

In 1993 Richemont, headed by Johann Rupert, a South African, restructured its holdings and set up the current companies. In addition to Vendôme, Richemont has a two thirds interest in Rothmans International, the tobacco company, and a 15 per cent interest in Canal Plus, the pay-television group.

Crest cost exchange £1m income

By Gavin Lumsden

THE London Stock Exchange's transfer of settlement from Talisman to Crest cost it £1 million in income, interim results reveal.

In the six months to September 30 the exchange earned £70.3 million, compared with £71.3 million for the same period last year.

However, the transition to Crest, which became fully operational in April, cut the exchange's costs by £19.3 million to £46.3 million. This was achieved mainly by reducing the number of staff by 200 to 550. After tax and interest, £18.3 million has been transferred to reserves.

A spokesman would not comment on whether the exchange was considering a rebate to members. In May it returned £10 million to City companies.

It has, however, yet to finish two major projects in preparation for the single currency and solving the millennium problem facing computer systems.

It has been a busy six months for the exchange. It has attracted listings from 63 new UK companies and 24 overseas firms and 24 companies joined the Alternative Investment Market.

Reuters adds worldwide sports Web

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

REUTERS, the international news and information group, kicks off on Monday with its own free sports Web site giving up-to-the minute sports coverage from around the world.

Reuters believes that its SportsWeb will be the first truly international sports Web site monitoring and reporting on nearly 60 sports worldwide. "What we have in text and pictures is a sports file which is very international and quite deep," says Pat McCarty, its editor.

The venture is a collaboration between Reuters and Digital Equipment Corporation, which is responsible for the design, installation and management of the Web set. The organisation will benefit from the advertising and merchandising opportunities that arise. There are also plans to use the site to sell tickets for sports events.

Julie Holland, managing director of Reuters UK and Ireland, said: "We know everyone is obsessed with sport." She views SportsWeb as very much a business venture and one that grows naturally out of the group's existing news and information activities. Reuters has a dedicated team of 15 sports journalists and three support staff based in London, as well as four full-time specialists in New York, three in Paris and one each in Bonn and Sydney.

Reuters does not see itself facing any direct Web competition. PA, the national news agency and information group, has an extensive sports Web site but it is non-commercial and designed mainly to be a "shop window" for its other Internet services.

Both ESPN, the satellite sports channel, and CBS, the US network group, have sport Web sites but both are primarily aimed at the North American market.

Initially the coverage in SportsWeb will be in English, but sections providing local perspective in other languages will be added next year.

Reuters said yesterday that the 1998 highlights of SportsWeb would include everything from this winter's England-West Indies cricket tests to the World Cup and Lennox Lewis's attempt to become the undisputed world heavyweight champion.

☐ The Reuters site is found at www.sportsweb.com.

BKG price reaches new low

By Paul Durman

SHARES in BKG Resources, the Kazakhstan mining company formerly known as Bakyrchik Gold, slid to a low of 15p yesterday.

BKG has surrendered most of its interest in the Bakyrchik mine as part of a rescue package agreed with Indochina Goldfields, the Canadian company that is its biggest shareholder and its joint venture partner in Kazakhstan.

The results for the six months to September 30 show BKG, which is based in London, with losses of $6.7 million (£4 million), up from $6.2 million, and it has the resources for only modest geological investigations until the end of next year. It is also dependent on Indochina to fund its share of the initial costs of the Bakyrchik mine.

KPMG, BKG's auditor, gave a warning of the "significance" of the uncertainty arising from this dependence on Indochina and said the figures assumed the company would remained a going concern. Roger Harris, BKG's managing director, said there were no plans to raise fresh capital.

At 15p, down 4½p yesterday, the AIM-quoted shares are a small fraction of last year's peak value of nearly 590p.

BKG retains only a 20 per cent interest in the Kazakh mine, down from 85 per cent previously. This has caused it to make a $76.5 million provision against the value of its main asset, reducing the value of its investments to just $12.5 million ($87.8 million).

Cox assets hit by market falls

STOCK market volatility has wiped £3 million off the value of Cox Insurance Holdings' net assets in two months, the company said yesterday (Marianne Curphey writes).

The loss would have been £2 million higher but for a hedge taken out around the time the markets peaked in early October.

Cox, a corporate investor at Lloyd's of London, said pretax profit rose to £7.3 million (£4 million) for the half year to September 30. The interim dividend is 0.8p (0.7p) a share.

IMF rescue promises to end system of giant conglomerates

South Korea's chaebol face upheaval

By George Sivell

THE terms of the IMF rescue for South Korea place a question mark over the future of the chaebol, the giant conglomerates that control the South Korean economy. Samsung, Hyundai, LG and Daewoo are responsible for 80 per cent of GDP.

While the companies are reluctant to comment on the cutting back of overseas expansion plans they will find raising the money at home much harder. Yields on South Korean corporate bonds soared to 15.85 per cent this week and the stock market plunged 10 per cent in one day.

International investors are beginning to shun South Korean paper because of the South-East Asian turmoil. Yesterday LG Semicon, part of the LG chaebol, announced an indefinite postponement of a global depositary receipts issue.

Some of the big chaebol, apart from Samsung Electronics, has been able to raise capital in the global equity market this year, a far cry from a year ago when South Korean paper was the darling of foreign investors. Economists are now coming to realise that the huge growth of the chaebol, financed by huge debts, lies behind the plea to the IMF for assistance.

Samsung stunned the business community this week with a 30 per cent cut in investment next year and its rivals are expected to follow suit. Halla said that it was retrenching half its 6,000 workforce at its shipbuilding unit by the year-end.

Kim Sang Wook, a spokesman for Hyundai, said: "We have our back to the wall.". Many Hyundai subsidiaries are pushing for heavy restructuring, "something they haven't done for a long time", he said.

Koo Bon Moo, the LG chairman, is urging his lieutenants to focus on "selection and concentration" as the group's future strategy. LG, South Korea's third biggest conglomerate, is consolidating business interests to focus on profits rather than expansion. Daewoo is slowing a global expansion effort that has made it a household name in East Europe, Central Asia and other emerging markets, quite apart from its offer of free at-the-door servicing of cars sold in Britain.

The Federation of Korean Industries, a lobbying organisation of the largest conglomerates, called on the Government for "extreme" rescue measures for companies and financial institutions. Seven of the top 30 conglomerates have gone bankrupt or nearly so, alongside numerous failures of smaller companies.

Analysts said that the heavy dose of austerity expected from an IMF programme could slow growth below 3 per cent next year, from this year's expected 6 per cent, putting more pressure on the chaebol to cut back.

Geoff Lewis, a Hong Kong based economist at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, said: "There is a clear need for Korea to move away from the chaebol. The system is clearly not appropriate to the 1990s with technology improving and other countries catching up."

Mr Lewis added: "The IMF has been drawn into some pretty fundamental restructuring plans, which are a long way removed from its main sphere of expertise ... to what extent the IMF will be dictating the whole process of industrial reform remains to be seen."

After weeks of denials, South Korea finally sought help from the IMF on November 21 as reports of declining foreign exchange reserves ricocheted through Asian markets. So far, the IMF has said South Korea would require a standby credit facility of $20 billion (£11.97 billion), but analysts said the extent of the external debt problem, estimated at $151 billion, could mean much more than that was required.

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Cool operator dancing to a different economic beat

Since its ill-fated demerger from Thorn 15 months ago, EMI Group has set only two records during its solo career on the FTSE 100. Over the past 12 months, its shares have plunged faster than any blue-chip peers. Secondly, it whipped its rivals on the executive pay front by doling out £7.15 million to Jim Fifield, head of its US records division, making him the highest-paid director of any FTSE company.

Now it seems set for a third record — pulling off the most value-shredding demerger in corporate history. And although the two companies have now lost £3.81 billion of market value between them, Sir Colin Southgate — who masterminded the split — still seems quite relaxed. "I'm not falling apart," he said last week, two days after giving warning that EMI is facing sluggish world music markets. "I would like the market to be better, but I think we manage in the market as well as anybody. What more can I do?"

He is fond of reminding that EMI is not just a record company, its a "national treasure". Its shares may have plunged 42 per cent against a bull market in the past year, but with titles that span the Beatles to the Spice Girls, how wrong can one company really go? "We are still the third-largest music company in the world," he says. "We are the number one music retailer in the world. We have the best return on capital. Name me the next British company that can say that."

He blames exceptional forces for hampering the share prices of both companies since the demerger. Together with the £600 million both Thorn and EMI have made in buybacks, he says, things just aint that bad. Shares in EMI, his theory goes, were beset by takeover speculation from the first.

"I've watched the takeover premium come out of the share price over the year," Sir Colin said. "I also watched the two years up to demerger when the shares got to a heady £18. I should have sold then — that would have gone down really well in the City. And bought at £10 — that would have livened them up!"

Thorn and EMI are worth £4.18 billion against £7.99 billion just after the August demerger. To many shareholders, this is inescapably damning — a viewpoint made clear at both companies' annual meetings. But Sir Colin ranks the demerger as a success, on the grounds that shareholders who wanted a "bog standard rental business" are no longer involved in the "hype of the rock and roll business".

Together, the two companies' combined market cap amounts to where Thorn EMI was three years ago — which he admits is far from ideal. "But we've given very good value to the shareholders since we decided on the demerger in the summer of 1994. They should not be unhappy about it." He went on: "Now, the rationale is popping into people's heads about shareholder value, but what does it mean? It seems the only way I can keep up this shareholder value is to keep putting out rumours that we're just about to be taken over."

This casual attitude, which has won him so many friends in the music industry, is much less appreciated in the City. Fund managers tearing their hair out over EMI's dismal share performance take cold comfort from reminders that the company is a "national treasure".

The recurring question is exactly what value Sir Colin has added to Thorn EMI, either together or apart, after having enjoyed a salary that, in the demerger year, is said to have totalled £8 million. Sir Colin claims to be bashful about his own impact, but does make one assertion: "All I can say is that I don't think EMI would exist if I had not come. What about that. I think it would have been sold around 1985 — somebody would have taken us over."

Whether this is so or not, a growing number of City analysts fear he is too enchanted with the glitzy life of a pop king to think about earnings growth. "We get the impression that he doesn't really care what happens to the business," said one. "He's always so aloof, and this is not encouraging." No one is calling for his head, although some say his departure would "not be met with unmitigated grief by the shareholders".

Even if the worst should happen, Sir Colin is not short of a Plan B. Last week he was named one of the roving ambassadors from business whom the Government wishes to parade to promote Britain's wider commercial interests. And although he has promised another four years at EMI, he does not deny suggestions that he is gunning for the chairmanship of Channel Four.

Whatever the turbulence of the past year, Sir Colin seems to consider his time at EMI as a mission accomplished. Indeed, shareholders who bought when he took the helm in July 1985 cannot deny that they are much better off — to the tune of some £3.2 billion, and that a large part of the credit lies with the chief executive.

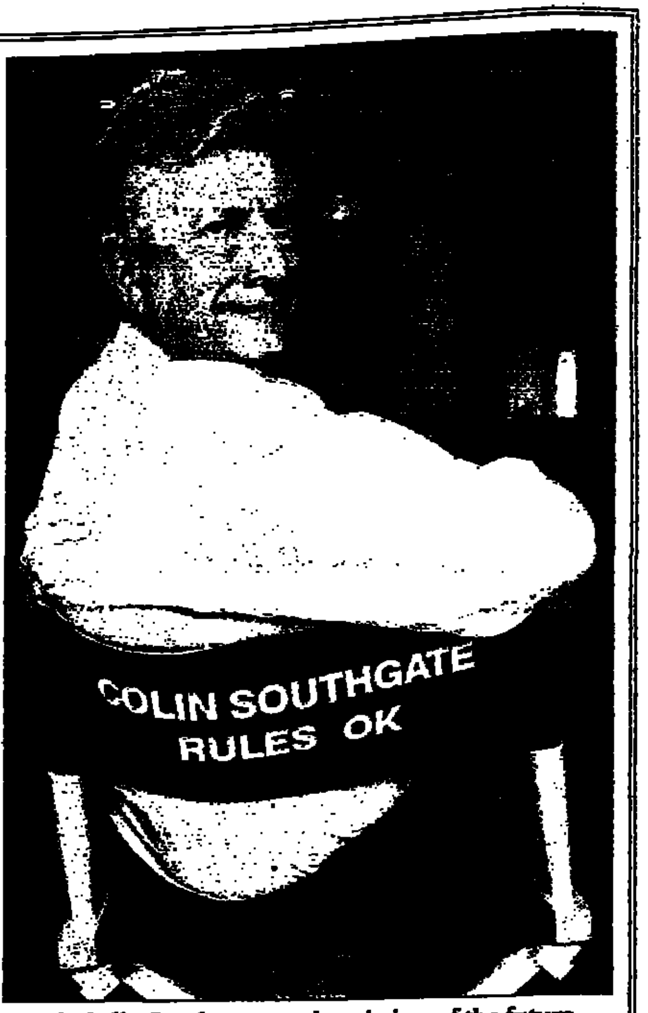
Those unfortunate enough to pile in at the demerger find Sir Colin's lack of urgency maddening, and strange, at a time when Thorn's management is willing to sell anything they can to hike the shares up. But he remains confident that natural market forces will lift the company when the global demand for music recovers. Until then, EMI will sit and wait.

FRASER NELSON

IN THE HOT SEAT

CV: SOUTHGATE

Non-executive directorships: Bank of England, Terrence Chapman Group, Whitehead Mann Group. Born Surrey, 1938. Attended City of London School. Trained as actuary but quit before qualifying to join ICL. Set up Software Science, which was sold to EMI in 1982. Chief executive in 1987.



Sir Colin Southgate: a relaxed view of the future

German entrepreneur to import 'gentlemen's clubs' to London

Gillian Upton finds out how Far Eastern experience refined a British idea

Last night Dieter R. Klostermann, chairman and chief executive of CCA Holdings, arrived in London from his Hong Kong headquarters to review documentation for four new purchases across Europe.

It is widely expected that an announcement of at least one will be made next week.

Klostermann's claim to fame is as exporter of the classic British gentleman's club to the burgeoning economies of Asia in the Eighties. He improved on them and is now set to re-import them by expanding his presence in the UK and continental Europe. Two of the purchases are in greater London, another in Frankfurt, and the last in Berlin in the historic Unter den Linden.

"Things are very hot," said Michael Longshaw, CCA's regional manager UK. "He doesn't come over when it's wet and horrible. It means an announcement is fairly imminent."

The CCA style of private club can be seen in the transforma*tion of the Gresham Club in the* Square Mile in 1994. The London Capital Club has more than 1,000 members drawn from the worlds of banking, law, insurance and corporate finance. Members are effusive about the high standard of food, networking opportunities and female membership.

"I did think the City could do with a new Rialto. The City has been a bit bereft of good facilities and he had all the right notions," said Sir Peter Parker, the Capital Club's honorary chairman.

Two years later Klostermann launched his second European venture when he took over Brocket Hall, the former ancestral home in Hertfordshire of Lord Brocket, the disgraced aristocrat. He has been operating it as an out-of-town conference centre, golf and country club. Its golf club is chaired by Lord MacLaurin, the former chairman of Tesco.

Next week's announcement will be the first of Klostermann's planned £100 million investments in the UK on more "Brockets".

CCA hopes to repeat its success with Brocket Hall, which is now a golf and country club and conference centre

Luton Hoo was on the acquisition list, but its distance from London and the cost of conversion were too great.

The Good "Gaijin" [foreigner] Guide would undoubtedly *list Klostermann as the most* sought-after businessmen in Asia. One associate described him recently as the Chinese equivalent of a Taipan, such is his influence. Such lofty status explains why his invitation for June's handover ceremony of Hong Kong came from the Chinese.

CCA runs the most prestigious private clubs across the Asia Pacific region. The list of members reads like a *Who's Who* of Japanese, Chinese, Taiwan, Thai, Indonesian Singaporean, Vietnamese and Filipino blue chip concerns. It includes leading players in Beijing's power structure, while in Jakarta two of his partners are the country's two leading business groups. And in Tokyo members of the imperial family patronise his facilities.

There are more than 30 clubs, half are company owned, and some 80,000 members are spread across 14 Asian economies.

Based in Hong Kong, CCA generates annual revenues of £180 million and has no transnational rivals.

Klostermann moves in the right circles. Doors can be opened for him anywhere in the world. "I've made a lot of friends and if we need help we *have easy access, but we use it* in a proper manner."

He is devoid of the flamboyancy often associated with high-flyers. Quietly spoken, unassuming and conservatively dressed, he has all but lost his German accent, which has softened appreciably after almost 30 years of living in the Far East. "He has a quite Rolls-Royce purr," is how Sir Peter Parker describes him. Klostermann was born in Bremen, and it may have been the Hanseatic tradition of having more contact with the outside world that helped to turn this 53-year-old into one of the new breed of transnational businessman. He has worked in Frankfurt, Paris, New York and Sydney.

Klostermann: new breed

He credits himself with a "bit of oriental mentality" after so long in Asia.

His career began in hotels. He held senior management positions with big-name players such as Hilton Hotels Corporation, Holiday Inns, *Oberoi Hotels, and Hilton* International. He wanted to start his own business so he moved swiftly into hotel development working on several international projects.

"It's important to understand the economics of development, the cost of investment, how to raise funds for a project and how to deal with investors," he explains. The experience obviously honed his diplomatic skills; Sir Peter refers to his management style as "the velvet approach".

His busines mentor was Ewell Pope. "He had tremendous perseverance. You must never give up. People in Asia admire it," says Klostermann. It took him years to negotiate his first project in Japan, but he hung in there, remembering Pope's advice.

CCA became the first foreign company to own and operate a private international business club in Japan with the opening of the Century Club in Osaka *in 1988.*

The company flagship in Asia, the City Club of Tokyo, followed three years later, opened by Prince and Princess Mikasa, just as the recession started.

"The early part was not easy," he admits, "you have to go through a learning curve."

His tenacity, however, has paid off. "I didn't expect the company to grow so rapidly. Had we been in one market we would have grown faster still, but Japan, China and Indonesia, for example, have different cultures, different eating habits and ways of doing business."

He believes that his good fortune would not have happened in Europe. "Asia then was similar in the old days to California. I was in the right place at the right time," he says with self-effacement.

Witnessing the rising affluence across Asia, he tapped into it by founding the CCA Group in 1980 to both develop and operate places where the Asian *nouveau riche* could spend their new-found wealth. "We started out with the simple idea of enhancing lifestyles," he says.

Openings followed the flow of foreign investment. Vietnam has been the most difficult of all hidden investments. "It has much more red tape than China and it changes laws at short notice," he says.

CCA has recently signed a joint venture contract with one of Klostermann's former employers, Oberoi, the Indian luxury hotel owner, to develop clubs throughout India, starting with Bangalore and Delhi.

The concept of a private club is not a new idea in either Europe or North America, but is novel in Asia except in Hong Kong, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

"Existing clubs were member-run, but not for profit," he says. "They were run by part-time committees with no financial accountabilities. People concentrate too much on the crystalware. That is important, but I wanted to apply professional management."

His hotel base formula of high standards and excellent food and beverage worked, although there is nothing formulaic about the premises. Each is designed to fit the local culture and community (which does not really explain the Bankers' Club in Taipei resembling the inside of an English stately home), and are driven in no small part by the senior members of the local business community who make up a *board of advisers. It is they who* have the final say on who passes muster.

The club is one of five types: city, city-athletic, golf and country club, family recreational and an entirely new category of small luxury club resorts. They vary from the City Club of Tokyo to the Imperial Country Club in Jakarta and the 36-hole Vietnam Golf and Country Club in Ho Chi Minh City.

Eight clubs are under development, including one in Moscow. Klostermann may take CCA International, the management company, public, and is toying with the idea of going into language and cookery schools and property development in China.

Other than that he is concentrating on his core business, eagerly looking for resorts. "It's a natural extension of our business. We cater to them weekdays in city clubs, weekends at golf and country clubs and now holidays. We want to be with you all the time."

Transforming Japan will test the nerve of ruling party

Carl Mortished in Tokyo finds a painful economic shift under way

On Thursday, a stockbroker jumped to his death from an office building in Osaka. He was employed by an affiliate of Yamaichi, the biggest corporate failure in Japanese history, is sending out shockwaves. No one knows why Seiichi Tanigashira, the 40-year-old deputy section head at Taiheiyo Securities, committed suicide but the press says he was depressed over the Yamaichi failure.

On the same day, the former chairman of Yamaichi publicly admitted that 265 billion yen (£1.2 billion) in losses were concealed in a web of off-balance-sheet transactions. Known as *tobashi* trading, deficits on client accounts prior to the year end were transferred to separate companies to avoid a loss.

The admission was a very public humiliation for Tsugio Yukihira, who said that the firm had been trying to trade out of its problems. But more interesting has been public reaction. Most Japanese are less shocked by the attempt at *concealment* than by the fact that the firm was allowed to go under. Lawmakers in Japan, including members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, are reported to have criticised the Ministry of Finance for not being aware of Yamaichi's troubles or, if they were, for not having concealed them.

There is no obvious panic other than the relentless slide in the Nikkei index but the calm conceals a typhoon blowing through this wealthy and ordered society. What is happening is the unravelling of Japan Inc, the complex ties that ensure the weak are carried by the strong.

At a low level it means that staff are kept on long after their jobs or skills have become redundant. At the corporate level it is best exemplified by the so-called "convoy system" where the strongest banks are expected to bail out the weak. That still seemed to be in operation in April when Nippon Credit was recapitalised but recent events suggest the Finance Ministry is thinking the unthinkable. In a month, four financial institutions have been cut loose from the great financial convoy.

Banking analysts in Tokyo expect more of the leaking boats to be sacrificed to the forces of capitalism. James McGinnis, banking analyst at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, reckons 30 per cent of the sector could go in failures or takeovers. "Propping up the weak is like trying to save a drowning man. If you don't catch him right, he'll drag you down," he said.

Japan's troubles stem in part from the 1970s when the government pump-primed the economy with public works. Although Japan has been left with an infrastructure that is the envy of the world, it has also accumulated huge bad debts, some would say from pork-barrel projects now yielding little or no return. The Japanese saved huge sums while they restored prosperity after the war and banks found an easy source of cheap capital to lend, many would say indiscriminately, to industrial companies. With cheap loans and a pressing need to create jobs, Japan Inc went for growth at the expense of everything else.

Ken Okamura, equity strategist at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, reckons that corporate behaviour in the late 1980s had much to do with the need to find good jobs for the baby-boomers, who were turning 40 and demanding promotions.

Japan's birth rate is now running at well below replacement rate and the lack of new bodies to join the ranks of the salarymen is causing a major headache as state pension provision is inadequate and many companies, already suffering from weak profitability, are funding pension schemes from current income. The demographics point to a severe squeeze on public and private finances, evidenced by the extraordinary savings ration. Meanwhile economic growth is not filling the gap and the economy stagnates.

The Japanese Government faces an almost impossible task, restructuring an economy designed for growth rates of 5 to 6 per cent but now registering nil. Burdened with bad debts, it needs to raise consumption levels but the message to the public is that the future is bleak. Walk down Ginza, the shopping street that acts as a barometer of consumer confidence and there is a distinct lack of bustle.

When Yamaichi staff cried as they explained the collapse to appalled customers more than shame caused their tears — they feared for their own jobs. The concern is well justified; their customers who were trying to cash in money market accounts will not spend the proceeds but put the money under the mattress with the nagging worry that they could face the axe.

In a real sense, Japan is making the painful transition from a socialist economy to one where the weak can sometimes go to the wall. The agonising job facing nervous officials in the Ministry of Finance is how to sell this transition to the public.

Should the Government lose its nerve, the capital markets will turn their back on Japan and the huge cost of bailing out the creaking financial system could become prohibitive. If they forge ahead and permit a rash of bankruptcies, there must be a nagging worry that Japan's docile salarymen might just say "No".

> ‘Behind the calm, a typhoon blows in this ordered society’

River view

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

GOOD news for anyone who has ever had to spend time in Dresdner Kleinwort Benson's rather ghastly foyer in Fenchurch Street, probably the least receptive of the City's reception areas. Kleinwort is taking over BZW's old gaff on the Thames, at Ebbgate House, vacated when they were all shipped downriver to Canary Wharf and sold into Swiss slavery. Some 800 people from the global markets and finance teams are moving to Swan Lane by the end of next year, once the building has been fumigated and refurbished at a cost of £40 million. This will allow much of Fenchurch Street itself, where Kleinwort has been in residence since 1969, to be tarted up, including the glass-fronted penal holding tank at the front of the building. "Hopefully when they get around to doing the refurbishment, that's where they will start," says my source. Indeed, get above about the tenth floor at Kleinwort and it is salubrious enough, Roux Brothers catering and all, but anything below that is positively Dickensian.

By then, they should have sorted out the computer glitches that have been plaguing Kleinwort's derivatives team. No one at the German-owned bank is saying anything, but someone who has had dealings with them says they have been tearing their hair out for a week.

● *VISCOUNT THURSO'S Champneys health club has imported the latest keep-fit gizmos from California to its Piccadilly premises, much frequented by politicians and other opinion-formers. A pedal bike on which the chain goes the wrong way around — or something such, the details need not detain us — they are known as spin-bikes. And have already been christened Mandies.*

Screen stars

IF THOSE busy little computer programmers scurrying around the dealing rooms are the new heavy hitters in the City, then I think I have spotted their successors. The place to be, one of the big computer software houses was telling me a while back, is computer law. The opportunities for profiting from others' misfortune are endless. Now one specialist has struck out on his own. Richard Kemp, 41, is leaving Garretts to set up Kemp & Co. Actually, it is currently Kemp and Only Three Others, but another specialist lawyer, Kenny Mullen from McGrigor Donald, the Scottish law firm, is joining shortly. Kemp is the only technology buff to have appeared in a survey of 40 top UK solicitors aged less than 40 a couple of years back, but I will try not to hold this against him.

Patronage

WE MIGHT find it a little odd, I think you would agree, if the Duke of Westminster were to be elected Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry with the blessing of Tony Blair, with whom he had become chummy at the Ministry of Defence. But in France they have been doing things thus for some time now, and on Monday Baron Ernest-Antoine Seiliere de Laborde — to name but a few, as the late Ronnie Scott would have put it — will emerge as the favoured candidate to run the French bosses' organisation.

The Baron comes from one of the 200 aristocratic families that own France. He will receive the official backing of the executive committee of the CNPF, better known in France as the Patronat, ahead of the formal election on December 16. Then he will be opposed by a couple of terminal losers and emerge, Brezhnev-style, to replace Jean Gandois, who decided a few weeks back there were better ways of earning a living than arguing with the country's militant truck drivers. The Baron is on "tutoi" terms with Lionel Jospin, the socialist Prime Minister, since their time together at the Quay D'Orsai.

MARTIN WALLER

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

Program trades and Sets blamed as shares slide

A CLUTCH of program trades saw share prices take a nosedive just minutes before the close of business.

The problem was exacerbated by the recently introduced Sets trading system, which continues to attract fierce criticism from agency brokers annoyed by the low levels of turnover and high levels of volatility created by wide spreads between bid and offer. The FTSE 100 index closed at its low point of the day, a fall of 57.2 at 4,831.8, with 25 points of the fall coming in the last quarter of an hour. This stretches the loss on the week to 154 points.

It proved a suitable finale to an unsettling week that saw the spectre of rising interest rates come back to haunt investors.

Tuesday's *"green Budget"* highlighted an apparent discrepancy between the Bank of England's inflation target and that of the Treasury's. Either way it looks as if the ball has been bounced into the Governor of the Bank of England's court, making the prospect of another imminent rise in interest rates a real possibility.

By the close of business last night a total of just 583 million shares had traded — the lowest of the week. The program trades were believed to have been carried out by JP Morgan, the US securities house, and included tranches of pharmaceutical companies.

It saw **Zeneca** lose an early lead to finish 6p down at £18.90 ahead of a visit by brokers on Monday to the group's research and development centre at Macclesfield. Zeneca has been a strong market this week, supported by the decision of the US Food and Drug Administration to approve Zomig, its migraine treatment. The potential market for migraine is estimated at £1.5 billion annually by the turn of the century. **British Biotech** also put on a further 4½p at 122p on persistent talk of a bid from Zeneca.

There were also losses recorded in **SmithKline Beecham**, down 50p at 550p, with **Glaxo Wellcome** shedding 91p to £12.87 after some cautious comments from HSBC James Capel, the broker.

Cautious comments from Schroders also left **GEC** 8½p lower at 385p ahead of half-year figures next week. These are expected to show pre-tax profits marginally ahead at £430 million, compared with £421 million for the corresponding period.

Viglen Technology, which sponsors Charlton Athletic, ***fell 22½p with margins down and oversupply problems***

A brokers' visit to Telford gave a fillip to **TI Group**, 1½p better at 478½p.

Richemont's £1 billion offer, worth 495p a *share*, for the remaining 30 per cent of **Vendome** it does not already own caught the speculators on the hop. They had been anticipating a bid for another company with the same initial, which everyone had assumed would be Vodafone, the mobile phone operator and the subject of intense bid speculation during the past couple of weeks.

Vendome responded to news of its approach with a leap of 79p to 472½p, while Vodafone firmed 2p to 396p, suggesting that perhaps there may be a bid on the way after all. There has been plenty of talk about an offer from American Telephone & Telegraph, the giant US telecoms group, which may see Vodafone as a way into Europe.

A *profits warning sent* **Viglen Technology** tumbling 22½p to 50p. The personal computer manufacturer and direct retailer said there had been a continuing erosion of gross margins with oversupply forcing prices lower. The group, which also sponsors Charlton Athletic, said volumes were still growing.

Laura Ashley slumped to a new low with a fall of 4p to 41½p after its own broker more than doubled its forecast losses for the current year. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson is now looking for £15 million. Its move comes just a week after the departure of Ann Iverson *as chief executive* and confirms that the group is losing money at a much faster pace than was originally thought to be the case.

Another retailer in decline is **Sears**, the Selfridges department store and Freemans mail order group. The price fell 2p to a low of 49p in turnover of 4.5 million shares.

The banks closed mixed after another volatile performance this week. **Standard Chartered** finished 17½p lower at 657½p in the wake of Wednesday's dinner with brokers who took part in a recent two-day trip to Hong Kong and Singapore. It stretches the loss on the week to 70½p.

UBS, the broker, unsettled others in the sector by expressing worries about the slowdown in both the mortgage *and lending markets. It* followed this up by lopping an estimated £100 million from its profits forecast for **Lloyds TSB**, down 9p at 675p, even though it continues to rate the shares. Other losers included **Alliance & Leicester**, 10p to 730p, **Barclays**, 19p to £14.28, **NatWest Bank**, 9p to 898p, and **Royal Bank of Scotland**, which reported in the week, 4p to 681p.

But there were gains of 4p apiece for **Halifax**, on 680p, and **Abbey National** on 945p, while Woolwich enjoyed the best peformance among the top 100 companies with a rise of 11p to 302½p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Bond prices were squeezed sharply higher in thin trading as worries earlier this week about a possible rise in interest rates began to recede. The best gains were seen at the longer end, with shorter dated prices undermined by some bearish comments from Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, to the Treasury Select Committee.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt put on £$\frac{17}{32}$ at £119$\frac{1}{16}$. A total of 44,000 contracts were completed as investors began rolling over their positions into the March series.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 rose £$\frac{23}{32}$ to £119$\frac{17}{32}$, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was £$\frac{3}{16}$ firmer at £100$\frac{29}{32}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares were firmer across the board in light trading. By the half-day close, courtesy of Thanksgiving, the Dow Jones industrial average was 28.35 points higher, at 7,823.13.

Nikko, the Japanese securities house, is urging clients to wait for higher terms at Allied Colloids, the subject of an aggressive 155p offer from Hercules. Nikko says Allied, ½p up at 168p, needs to leverage shareholder value by either proving it can do better, find a white knight or negotiate better terms with Hercules.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Bluebird Toys	92½p	-7½p	Profits warning
Vendôme	472½p	+127p	Richemont bids 495p
Marks & Spencer	609p	-45p	Broker turns cautious
Allied Colloids	168p	+42p	Hercules bids 155p
Viglen Technology	50p	-27½p	Profits warning
Zeneca	£18.90	+87p	FDA approves Zomag
Vodafone	396p	+16p	*Bid speculation*
British Aerospace	£16.16	+28p	Eurofighter go ahead
Neepsend	39½p	+8½p	Bid approach

MAJOR INDICES

New York	
Dow Jones	7823.13 (+28.35)
S&P Composite	955.40 (+3.76)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	16636.26 (+33.06)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	10526.92 (-56.18)
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	881.72 (-4.59)
Sydney:	
AO	2465.10 (+2.80)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	3949.14 (-4.70)
Singapore:	
Straits	1660.59 (+9.62)
Brussels:	
General	13661.11 (-12.57)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2859.19 (+30.18)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	1191.70 (+1.10)
London:	
FT 30	3135.6 (-27.9)
FTSE 100	4831.8 (-57.2)
FTSE 250	4656.7 (-1.6)
FTSE 350	2338.8 (-22.4)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2566.45 (+1.79)
FTSE All-Share	2288.64 (-20.33)
FTSE Non Financials	2326.17 (-22.81)
FTSE Fixed Interest	132.06 (-0.80)
FTSE Govt Secs	100.38 (-0.31)
Bargains	40651
SEAQ Volume	583.9m
US$	1.6845 (+0.0098)
German Mark	2.9711 (+0.0166)
Exchange Index	105.0 (+0.6)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4964
£:SDR	1.2258
RPI	159.5 Oct (3.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	157.9 Oct (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Advance UK Tst	100½	...
BCH Group	199½	...
BG 'B'	30½	...
CRC	112½	+ 2½
Capital Opps Tst	113½	...
Cresco Intl	153½	...
Flmg Geared Uts	72½	...
Foresight Tech Wts	*30*	...
Foresight Tech	100	...
Metalsrussia	73½	...
Minorplanet Sys	54	...
Northern Recrtmnt	116½	...
Nottingham Frst (70)	56½	...
Savoy Asset Mngmt	113½	...
Seascope Shipping	255	...
Tetra	173½	+ 2
Workplace Tech	188½	- 10

RIGHTS ISSUES

Green Prop (350)	32	- ½

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Vendome	472½p (+79p)
Caledonia	690p (+34p)
Dorling Kind	239p (+11½p)
Real Time	333½p (+16p)
BG	284p (+12½p)
Cable Wireless	538p (+19p)
Wolseley	508p (+17p)
Filtronic Com	422p (+12p)
Photobition	787½p (+20p)
Cobham	796p (+20p)
Provident	713½p (12p)
FALLS:	
Viglen Tech	50p (-22½p)
Smithkline	550p (-50p)
Com Union	815p (-37p)
Royal & Sun Al	533p (-18p)
Sappi	335½p (-11p)
Gen Accident	963p (-31½p)
Prudential	638p (-20p)
Smith Inds	774p (-24p)
Sun Life & Prov	378p (-10½p)
Rio Tinto	715p (-19p)
RMC Gp	896p (-22p)
Br Airways	537p (-13p)
Marks Spencer	609p (-14p)
Guinness	537p (-12p)

Closing Prices Page 26

TEMPUS

Clearer line from Energis

IT IS hardly surprising if the word Ionica *inevitably flashes into the minds of investors* invited to participate in the book-building for Energis, the telecommunications company that floats on December 9.

Shareholders in Ionica, the wireless telecommunications group, were not best pleased earlier this month to find that unexpected delays with software were hampering its progress *only a few months after its float.*

Energis and Ionica may share a lack of familiarity but, in truth, there is no comparison between the two companies. Energis, the National Grid subsidiary, has already completed its national network, apart from selling off some spare capacity. It is aiming entirely at the high-margin business communications *market and has actually made some gross* profits, albeit modest.

The National Grid can't need the money *and must be more interested in placing a* value on one of its brighter ideas — stringing a fibre optic telecommunications network from electricity plyons.

There is obviously a long way to go yet but it seems as if Energis has a plausible strategy and has put most of the building blocks in place for expansion, including an international licence, *which should give it the ability to* put the bite on some of BT's prices.

Against the current market background, Energis may struggle to have its shares priced near the top of the suggested range — 250p to 325p. Obviously, the price that finally emerges from the book-building is the all-important caveat. But Energis has developed *some interesting opportunities on which to* build.

Viglen

NO DEMERGER can be complete nowadays without a profits warning a few months later. Just 119 days after Viglen came to the market, it has tripped up.

Viglen had been walking on water for too long. It had captured a niche market in the small personal computer field and had been churning *out margins of 10 per cent* — virtually unknown among its peers.

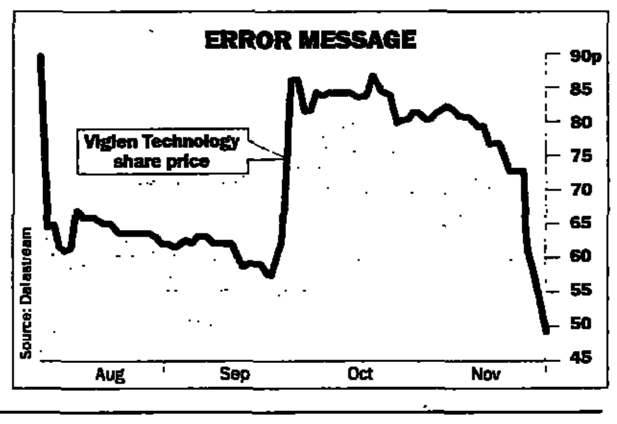
Now, this has imploded just in time for Christmas. The company is heading for maiden profits of £11.5 million for this year, against its *broker's recent confident* forecast of £12.4 million.

Its problem has been an attempt to hitch on to the mass market. Its shares shot to a heady 87p after its deal with Microsoft, which lent its name to Viglen hardware. These machines were heading for Dixons, and ready to do battle with the world's best.

It is now learning the lessons of the big brigade. Words like "oversupply" seldom featured on Viglen's listing particulars, but it is a problem it will have to grow used to if it wants to play in the major league.

Viglen is no dog. It is set to do well in the late 1990s with the Microsoft deal.

The cost of these ambitions is more normal margins, and the occasional beating from harsh competition. The City seems to have calmed down, and the shares now sit on a more realistic ratio of 10.2 times forward earnings. Hold.



Eidos

THESE past few months, investors in Eidos have enjoyed almost as much excitement as its young customers derive from Tomb Raider, the company's big-selling computer game. First of all, Coopers & Lybrand resigned as auditor, supposedly over weaknesses in the company's governance. Then came allegations of an insider dealing inquiry. And now wholesale changes to the accounting policies that turn last year's impressive £7.6 million profit into a loss of about the same.

Having increased sales from £110,000 to £75.5 million in five years, it is scarcely surprising that Eidos's young management team have had more pressing things to think about than the Cadbury code. That does not make it any less worrying that a £100 million company is only now getting round to sorting out the boardroom basics.

Eidos claims that it has adopted the most prudent accounting in the games developments business — abandoning its previous policy of capitalising its enormous development spending (£16 million in the first half) on the balance sheet.

For all its past success, Eidos could get it wrong. The dangers are to be seen in the disappointing first-half sales, blamed on two flops licensed in. Yesterday's launch of Tomb Raider II gives the company a strong roster for Christmas. However, if the appeal of Lara Croft and other favourites suddenly fades, Eidos could easily leave a nasty red mess. Strictly for the brave.

Cox Insurance

ONLY time will tell whether Cox's recent successful move to buy back underwriting capacity in Lloyd's from names was achieved when prices were at rock bottom in the market. Names had to balance the risk of another crisis against selling out to Cox. The City thinks that Cox engineered a very good deal, as the continued strength of its shares shows.

The thinking behind Cox's strategy of buying in capacity is to avoid the fees that otherwise must be paid to middlemen. The names system is very expensive. Typically, a third of names' profit is siphoned off by agents charging fees and profits commission. Cox begrudges having to pay this, when it could instead be adding extra sums to shareholders' funds.

Cox's value has grown sharply since flotation two years ago, even though all sectors of the insurance industry are finding trading to be tough. Of its £80 million of invested assets, more than half are in equities, and, in spite of recent market volatility, this exposure has served shareholders well. With such credentials, there is still room for the share price to rise further.

EDITED BY PAUL DURMAN

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

[illegible]

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

[illegible]

LONGS (over 15 years)

[illegible]

UNDATED

[illegible]

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 5% 3%

[illegible]

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

FTSE INDEX (*4866)

[illegible]

*Underlying security price

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Dec 97	119-19	119-04	118-17	119-02	44588
Previous open interest 194068	Mar 98	119-15	119-31	119-10	119-26	47755
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Dec 97	103.67	104.00	103.61	103.94	128529
Previous open interest 269750	Mar 98	102.88	103.30	102.88	103.26	26914
German Govt Bond (Bobl)	Dec 97	103.91	104.11	103.91	104.05	4747
Previous open interest 18235	Mar 98	103.34	103.34	103.34	103.38	5
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Dec 97	113.54	113.90	113.47	113.74	33350
Previous open interest 130122	Mar 98	113.90	114.12	113.81	114.07	8286
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Dec 97	130.05	130.25	130.00	130.04	3742
	Mar 98	129.05	129.28	129.03	129.08	1897
Three Mth Sterling	Dec 97	92.30	92.31	92.28	92.28	27653
	Mar 98	92.24	92.25	92.22	92.22	13449
Previous open interest 785078	Jun 98	92.26	92.27	92.24	92.26	7440
Three Mth Euromark	Dec 97	96.19	96.22	96.19	96.21	15871
Previous open interest 1669721	Mar 98	96.06	96.10	96.05	96.09	24187
Three Mth Eurolira	Dec 97	93.96	94.00	93.96	93.98	14554
Previous open interest 556875	Mar 98	94.72	94.76	94.72	94.74	16270
Three Mth Euroswiss	Dec 97	96.01	98.10	98.01	98.10	14317
Previous open interest 174623	Mar 98	98.02	98.14	98.02	98.13	15615
Three Mth ECU	Dec 97	95.41	95.46	95.41	95.45	443
Previous open interest 38564	Mar 98	95.37	95.41	95.37	95.40	67
FTSE 100	Dec 97	4898.0	4894.0	4851.0	4865.0	5361
Previous open interest 69064	Mar 98	4928.0	4934.0	4920.0	4911.5	107

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7¼ Finance Hse 7½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7¼ Low 7¼ Week fixed: 7⅛
Treasury Bills (Dis): *Buy: 2 mth 7⅛ ; 3 mth 7⅛ . Sell: 2 mth 6⅞ ; 3 mth: 6⅞ .*

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	7¼-7⅛	7¼-7⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open 7⅛, close 7¼					
Local Authority Deps:	7⅛	n/a	7⅜	[illegible]	7½
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.90	n/a	5.79	5.81	5.93
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £428m allotted: £100m: Bids: £98.215% received: 56%: Last week: £98.24% received: 95%. Avge rate: £7.1330% last wk £7.0573%; Next week: £100m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4-3
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	2-1½	2½-2	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	½-par	½-par	½-par	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $295.75-296.15 Close: $296.70-297.20 High: $296.70-297.20
Low: $295.15-295.65 AM: $296.90 PM: $296.80

Krugerrand: $300.00-302.00 (£179.00-182.00)

Platinum: $384.00 (£228.50) **Silver:** $5.29 (£3.135) **Palladium:** $204.50 (£121.70)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Nov 28	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.3314-3.3509	3.3477-3.3509	1⅛-1pr	3½-3⅛pr
Brussels	60.980-61.358	61.261-61.358	23-18pr	61-54pr
Copenhagen	11.252-11.316	11.307-11.316	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dublin	1.1294-1.1381	1.1350-1.1371	13-7pr	41-34pr
Frankfurt	2.9565-2.9730	2.9704-2.9730	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lisbon	301.96-303.77	303.46-303.77	[illegible]	[illegible]
Madrid	249.88-251.33	251.16-251.33	55-44pr	171-152pr
Milan	2896.3-2913.7	2909.1-2913.7	30-20pr	117-95pr
Montreal	2.3834-2.3992	2.3972-2.3992	1.40-1.31pr	2.02-1.93pr
New York	1.6754-1.6852	1.6844-1.6852	0.223-0.202pr	0.725-0.695pr
Oslo	12.044-12.122	12.110-12.122	[illegible]	[illegible]
Paris	9.8920-9.9506	9.9417-9.9506	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	12.953-13.015	13.001-13.015	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	213.41-215.11	214.92-215.11	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vienna	20.803-20.925	20.905-20.925	[illegible]	2-1½pr
Zurich	2.3904-2.4034	2.4006-2.4034	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel *Premium - pr Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.4641-1.4652
Austria	12.41-12.42
Belgium (Com)	36.37-36.38
Canada	1.4226-1.4231
Denmark	6.7166-6.7186
France	5.9020-5.9050
Germany	1.7640-1.7645
Hong Kong	7.7298-7.7308
Ireland	1.4799-1.4819
Italy	1727.80-1729.30
Japan	127.55-127.60
Malaysia	3.5075-3.5175
Netherlands	1.9879-1.9884
Norway	7.1897-7.1971
Portugal	180.27-180.37
Singapore	1.5915-1.5935
Spain	149.10-149.20
Sweden	7.7201-7.7276
Switzerland	1.4272-1.4282

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6850-1.6877
Australia dollar	2.4590-2.4615
Bahrain dinar	0.6245-0.6385
Brazil real*	1.5684-1.8730
China yuan	13.723-14.025
Cyprus pound	0.8525-0.8715
Finland markka	8.8575-8.9965
Greece drachma	458.0-468.5
Hong Kong dollar	12.9822-12.9877
India rupee	64.11-65.41
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.5035-0.5145
Malaysia ringgit	5.8908-5.9094
New Zealand dollar	2.7229-2.7259
Pakistan rupee	72.20 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0300-6.1650
Singapore dollar	2.6729-2.6771
S Africa rand (com)	8.0480-8.2170
U A E dirham	6.0825-6.2185

Barclays Treasury* * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	941	Legal & Gn	1,300
ASDA Gp	2,400	Lloyds TSB	5,100
Abbey Ntl	485	LucasVarity	1,900
Allnce & Leic	2,000	Marks Spr	1,400
Allied Dom	1,000	NatWst Bk	1,700
AB Foods	1,500	Nat Grid	13,900
BAA	1,500	Nat Power	2,300
BAT Inds	3,000	Next	452
BG	5,000	Norwich Un	2,900
BOC	1,200	Orange	1,000
BP	6,000	P & O	2,400
BSkyB	717	Pearson	1,100
BTR	7,000	PowerGen	1,200
BT	6,600	Prudential	3,000
Bk of Scot	3,600	RMC	204
Barclays	1,900	Railtrack	779
Bass	528	Rank Group	841
Billiton	3,100	Reckitt Col	1,000
Blue Circle	1,300	Reed Intl	3,200
Boots	696	Rentokil	6,300
BAe	627	Reuters	4,400
BA	3,200	Rio Tinto	1,400
British Land	1,500	Rolls Royce	1,500
Brit Steel	3,300	Royal & Sun	1,900
Cable Wire	3,100	Royal Bk Scot	654
Cadbury	1,100	Safeway	7,400
Carlton Cms	2,400	Sainsbury	2,500
Centrica	10,000	Schroders	59
Cm Union	310	Scot & New	282
Dixons	1,600	Scot Power	1,400
EMI	1,400	Svrn Trent	305
Energy Gp	474	Shell Trans	13,500
Enterpr Oil	1,600	Siebe	949
GKN	270	SmKl Bch	15,500
GRE	1,800	Smiths Inds	255
GUS	565	Std Chartd	4,400
Gen Acc	619	Sun Life	134
Gen Elec	6,300	TI Gp	3,200
Glaxo Well	4,000	Tesco	2,100
Granada	2,200	Thames W	1,230
Grand Met	8,500	Tomkins	1,500
Guinness	4,000	Unilever	5,200
HSBC	1,400	Utd Utilities	1,600
Halifax	2,500	Utd News	1,100
Hays	925	Vodafone	7,600
ICI	748	Whitbread	161
Kingfisher	2,100	Williams	1,900
LASMO	1,600	Wolseley	618
Ladbroke	1,700	Woolwich	6,200
Land Secs	1,100	Zeneca	2,300

WALL STREET

Nov 25 close Nov 26 close

[illegible]

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 29 1997

NEWS

MPs vote to ban foxhunting

■ The end of foxhunting in Britain by 2000 was confidently predicted by Labour ministers, MPs and campaigners last night after the Commons gave a massive majority to a backbench attempt to outlaw hunting with hounds.

After a passionate debate, Michael Foster's bill was carried by 411 votes to 151, a majority of 260 .... **Pages 1, 4, 5, 6**

Hearts to guard grave of Princess

■ A seven-foot-high steel cordon is to be erected around the island where Diana, Princess of Wales is buried. Her brother, Earl Spencer, has asked his local authority for permission to build the fence, decorated with thousands of heart-shaped motifs to honour "The Queen of Hearts" .... **Pages 1, 16, 17, 18**

Supermarket savings

Supermarkets will play a key role in a savings revolution to be unveiled by Gordon Brown next week .... **Page 1**

Fair sex

The biggest concentration of rubber outside Malaya was on display in London at Britain's first commercial sex fair .... **Page 1**

Luxor victim lost

The body of a second member of a family killed in the massacre at the Egyptian tourist resort of Luxor has been lost .... **Page 3**

Plea for horses

Sir Peter O'Sullevan, the "Voice of Racing" for half a century, made an emotional plea for racehorses' welfare as he prepared for his final BBC commentary .... **Page 3**

£7m loser

A partner in a City accountancy firm who swindled funds to bet more than £7 million on horse races was jailed .... **Page 3**

Sandhurst scandal

Cash and gifts are at the heart of the unprecedented investigation at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst .... **Page 7**

British pioneers

British surgeons have perfected keyhole surgery to remove a breast tumour and rebuild the breast in a four-hour operation .... **Page 9**

ANC smeared

South African agents planted stories in British newspapers aimed at smearing the ANC and Winnie Madikizela-Mandela .... **Page 13**

Britpop goes pop

Britpop, the musical phenomenon that made Britain cool again, may be breathing its last .... **Page 15**

Pacific evacuation

Evacuation plans are being drawn up by Pacific islands in case global warming raises sea levels and make them uninhabitable **Page 20**

PC law catches up with German Pcs

■ Flat-chested Hispanic-looking car thieves are given a breathing space by a ruling in Germany's political-correctness revolution which obliges police to avoid sexually-suggestive and ethnic adjectives in crime reports .... **Page 19**

DYLAN MARTINEZ/REUTERS

Ho Chi Minh Pioneers prepare to perform at the opening session of Vietnam's Seventh Communist Youth Congress in Hanoi yesterday.

NEWS FEATURES

English fare: The sort of food that sustained Henry VIII is returning to the table. The revival of old English fare is the coming cookery trend as sales foretell the end of the so-*called new British* cuisine .... **Page 11**

Evil laugh: The exorcist of Notre Dame has a devil of a sense of humour .... **Page 19**

Valerie Grove: The times are a-changin', and they leave old rockers (and folk singers) behind, unless they do one of two things: succumb to early death, or re-invent themselves. Joan Baez is in her prime at almost 57 ... **Page 21**

OPINION

Green pique: The EU goes to the Kyoto conference on global warming clothed in righteousness. It is more important to return with a deal .... **Page 23**

False trail: *After the relative calm of Bosnia, Tony Blair will consider his options after the vote on hunting* .. **Page 23**

The English fool: Fashion has rediscovered ancient receipts that once fed corpulent yeomen .... **Page 23**

LETTERS

Defence procurement; traffic solutions; car park threat to Greeenwich park ..... **Page 23**

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: The marital affairs of Earl Spencer, currently before a court in South Africa, are of no public interest to Britain .... **Page 22**

Philip Howard: Sir John Hackett's memorial service was one of the last for what in *Forty Years On* Alan Bennett called "The Breed". But Shan was a rarer breed .... **Page 22**

OBITUARIES

Dan Farson, writer, broadcaster and photographer; **Robert Woof**, Labour MP for Blaydon; **C. Gordon Tether**, journalist .... **Page 25**

BUSINESS

Coal: The Government is working on plans to save the coal industry .... **Page 27**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 57.2 points to close at 4831.8. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 104.4 to 105.0 after a rise from $1.6747 to $1.6845 and DM2.9545 to DM2.9711 .... **Page 31**

WEEKEND MONEY

Banking: Banks are trying to steal competitors' customers .... **Page 54**

Pensions: A question answered .... **Page 59**

Taxation .... **Pages 62-64**

SPORT

Rugby union: Two crowds of more than 70,000 will watch international matches in London: England v South Africa and Wales v New Zealand .... **Page 41**

Football: Everton supporters are planning a demonstration .... **Page 37**

Tennis: Jonas Bjorkman gave Sweden the lead over the United States in the Davis Cup final ... **Page 34**

Snooker: Stephen Hendry stood only three frames away from reaching the final .... **Page 34**

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Rocky road: Sylvester Stallone gets too old for the Rambo stuff..... **Pages 8-13**

Elixir of life: How safe is hormone replacement therapy? .... **Pages 16-20**

Little emperors: China's one-child policy has changed the face of the country .... **Pages 44-50**

Fashion .... **Pages 62-65**

metro

Lone star: Sheryl Crow finds fame, fortune and unhappiness ..... **Pages 6-8**

Daley life: George Cole is not worried about being typecast .... **Pages 10, 11**

Books: Alex O'Connell spots a literary bandwagon.... **Pages 16-23**

Music .... **Pages 12-15**

WEEKEND

Conservative hope: Can Ffion save the Tories? .... **Pages: 1, 3**

Diana's disciples: Business is booming around Althorp .... **Page 2**

Home life: How today's foundlings have coped with being abandoned .... **Page 7**

Lost at sea: Britain's worst lifeboat disaster... **Page 18**

Vision

Full seven-day television and radio guide

m:go

Our new kids' comic is back for more

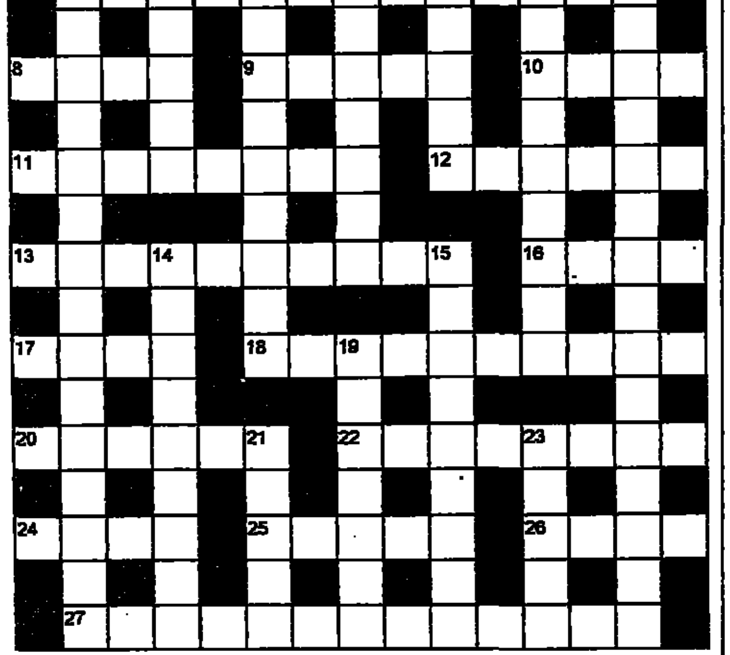
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,650

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....

....



ACROSS

1 Reveal secret light outside an Egyptian city (5,3,5).
8 Release without charging (4).
9 Sticky stuff, say, applied the wrong way to arm (5).
10 Swindle of £1.51? (4).
11 Force both sides into a radio broadcast (8).
12 Virago has to continue slowly (6).
13 Be guided by ruling and give up criminal activities (2,8).
16 Punish all the spectators (4).
17 Close main line (4).
18 Emphatic pronoun with which fairies end letter? (10).
20 Hanging out, so to speak (6).
22 Doctor in South American country gets new issue (8).
24 "Reverse arms" well ordered (4).
25 Tablecloth with indentations, by the sound of it (5).
26 Judge takes some outside employment (4).
27 Steward's on the fiddle – that's *succinct* (5,3,5).

DOWN

1 Extend house in both directions to develop fully (6,4,5).
2 One bargain that's unattainable (5).
3 An old soldier, I nearly go crazy (9).
4 Exhibit pet with a guilty look (7).
5 Money we pray for on a daily basis (5).
6 Artist, upset over alteration, left – Raphael, perhaps (9).
7 Out of its depth, here's a beast of burden (4,2,3,6).
14 Learner kept in beginning to adapt to rap over the knuckles (7-2).
15 Prongs stuck into girl producing *irritability* (9).
19 Do without female's soothing words (7).
21 First sections of Handel piece needed practice (5).
23 Duck a trick (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,644

R	E	M	A	T	C	H	■	R	U	B	B	I	S	H
Y	■	A	■	E	■	I	■	U	■	E	■	M	■	E
O	V	E	R	S	I	G	H	T	■	A	L	P	H	A
K	■	S	■	T	■	H	■	■	■	N	■	L	■	D
A	C	T	U	P	■	P	R	O	V	O	K	I	N	G
N	■	R	■	I	■	O	■	N	■	■	■	E	■	I
■	F	O	L	L	O	W	M	Y	L	E	A	D	E	R
A	■	■	■	O	■	E	■	O	■	S	■	■	■	L
C	O	U	N	T	E	R	C	U	L	T	U	R	E	■
A	■	T	■	■	■	E	■	R	■	A	■	U	■	A
P	R	I	N	C	E	D	O	M	■	B	E	N	I	N
U	■	L	■	H	■	■	■	A	■	L	■	I	■	O
L	O	I	R	E	■	F	O	R	E	I	G	N	E	R
C	■	T	■	S	■	R	■	K	■	S	■	T	■	A
O	D	Y	S	S	E	Y	■	S	C	H	L	O	C	K

Solution to Puzzle No 20,649

P	L	A	T	E	G	L	A	S	S	■	H	E	A	P
■	A	■	E	■	A	■	I	■	T	■	E	■	G	■
O	D	O	M	E	T	E	R	■	O	N	E	W	A	Y
■	Y	■	P	■	H	■	W	■	I	■	L	■	P	■
A	S	P	I	R	E	■	A	C	C	E	P	T	E	D
■	M	■	■	■	R	■	Y	■	■	■	I	■	■	■
F	A	I	R	■	I	N	S	U	R	G	E	N	C	Y
■	I	■	O	■	N	■	■	■	E	■	C	■	H	■
A	D	J	U	D	G	M	E	N	T	■	E	V	I	L
■	■	■	N	■	■	■	X	■	R	■	■	■	N	■
A	C	A	D	E	M	I	C	■	I	N	S	T	A	L
■	L	■	E	■	A	■	E	■	E	■	P	■	W	■
D	O	G	L	E	G	■	R	E	V	E	R	S	A	L
■	U	■	A	■	O	■	P	■	A	■	I	■	R	■
S	T	A	Y	■	G	A	T	E	L	E	G	G	E	D

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *N Walker, Farnham, Surrey; B Stannard, London E1; R Fisher, New Barnet, Herts; D S Milner, Abergavenny; L S Phillips, Edgware, Middx.*

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 7.41 am	Sun sets: 3.57 pm
Moon sets 4.07 pm	Moon rises 6.32 am

New moon tomorrow

London 3.57 pm to 7.43 am
Bristol 4.06 pm to 7.52 am
Edinburgh 3.46 pm to 8.18 am
Manchester 3.55 pm to 8.00 am
Penzance 4.24 pm to 7.58 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 7.43 am	Sun sets: 3.56 pm
Moon sets 4.47 pm	Moon rises 7.36 am

New moon today

London 3.56 pm to 7.44 am
Bristol 4.06 pm to 7.53 am
Edinburgh 3.45 pm to 8.19 am
Manchester 3.55 pm to 8.02 am
Penzance 4.23 pm to 7.59 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	01 00	6.9	13 16	6.3
Aberdeen	00 30	4.1	12 49	4.2
Avonmouth	06 27	12.6	18 43	12.7
Belfast	10 21	3.3	22 34	3.4
Cardiff	06 13	[illegible]	18 29	11.9
Devonport	04 58	5.4	17 17	5.4
Dover	10 18	6.4	22 38	6.4
Dublin (N Wall)	10 55	3.9	22 14	3.8
Falmouth	04 29	5.2	16 48	5.2
Greenock	·	·	12 15	3.4
Harwich	11 15	3.8	23 35	4.0
Holyhead	09 41	5.4	21 56	5.4
Hull (Albert D)	05 33	8.5	17 53	8.4
Ilfracombe	05 15	8.8	17 31	8.8
King's Lynn	05 36	6.3	17 58	6.5
Leith	01 54	5.3	14 09	5.4
Liverpool	10 32	9.1	22 49	9.1
Lowestoft	08 39	2.5	21 05	2.5
Margate	11 21	4.6	23 42	4.7
Milford Haven	05.29	6.6	17 45	6.7
Newquay	04 21	6.6	16 37	6.7
Oban	05 12	3.9	17 13	3.9
Penzance	03 52	5.3	16 07	5.3
Portland	06 00	2.0	18 17	2.0
Portsmouth	10 44	4.6	23 04	4.5
Shoreham	10 26	5.9	22 45	5.9
Southampton	10 02	4.6	22 21	4.5
Swansea	05 39	9.1	17 57	9.1
Tees	02 50	5.1	15 10	5.2
Walton-on-N	11 09	4.0	22 30	4.1

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, 15C (59F); lowest day max: Baltasound, Shetland, 6C (43F); highest rainfall: Trawsgoed, Cardiganshire, 1.53in; highest sunshine: Falmouth, Cornwall, 6.3hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 43.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General**: Scotland will be mostly overcast and damp with a chilly wind. *Northern Ireland will see a few bright* or sunny spells, but showers are also likely. Northern England, east Wales and the Midlands will be cloudy with outbreaks of rain. Southern England and west Wales will have showers.

☐ **London, SE England**: mix of showers and brighter spells. More prolonged rain later. Moderate west wind. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **E Anglia, E Midlands, E England, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England, NE England**: dull and cloudy with rain, some heavy. Moderate west to northwest wind. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Central S England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England**: frequent showers, some heavy, and brighter spells. Moderate northwest wind. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **S Wales, N Wales**: rain in the east. Brighter in the west, but some *heavy showers likely. Moderate north*west wind. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland**: dull with some patchy rain, feeling cold in moderate northeast wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland**: cloudy with occasional drizzle and some heavier rain. Moderate north to northeast wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Northern Ireland**: rain in the east clearing to showers and sunny spells. Light northwest wind. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland**: bright with some showers. Moderate northwest wind. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Outlook**: colder, with showers turning increasingly wintry in the north.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

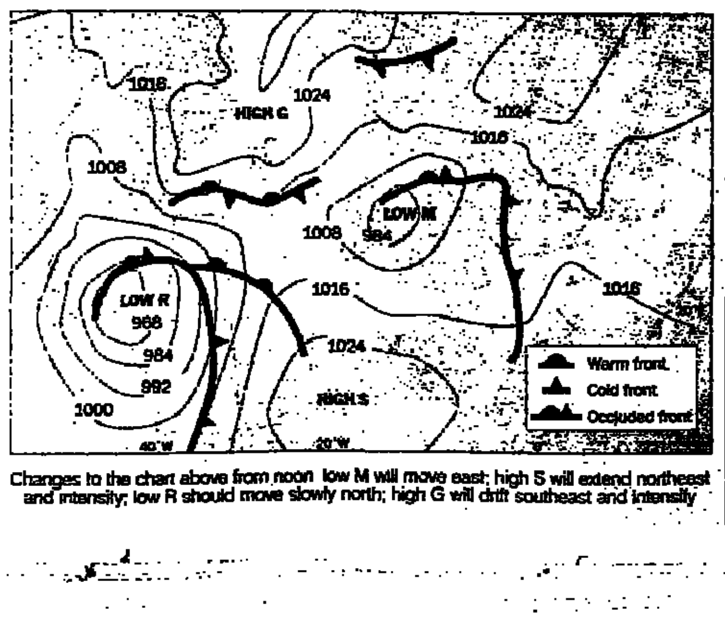
24 hrs to 5 pm. b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.50	10	50	r	Leuchars	-	0.17	9	48	r
Anglesey	-	0.69	10	50	r	Littlehmptn	3.9	0.60	14	57	r
Aspatria	-	0.01	8	46	r	London	3.4	0.36	14	57	r
Aviemore	-	0.01	7	45	r	Lowestoft	-	0.28	12	54	r
Belfast	-	0.01	9	48	c	Manchester	-	0.29	11	52	r
Birmingham	0.2	0.57	11	52	r	Margate	2.4	0.48	13	55	r
Bognor R	4.1	0.64	13	55	b	Minehead	-	0.76	12	54	r
Bournem'th	2.1	0.79	14	57	b	Morecambe	-	0.33	10	50	r
Bristol	0.1	0.56	13	55	r	Newcastle	-	0.13	9	48	r
Buxton	-	0.51	9	48	sh	Newquay	X				
Cardiff	0.1	0.93	12	54	sh	Norwich	0.1	0.24	12	54	r
Clacton	3.2	0.45	11	52	s	Oxford	0.2	0.42	12	54	r
Cleethorpes	-	0.22	10	50	r	Penzance	X	0.42	15	59	b
Colwyn Bay	-	0.52	9	48	r	Poole	3.0	0.89	14	57	s
Cromer	-	0.16	11	52	r	Prestatyn	X				
Dunbar	X					Ross-o-wye	0.1	0.63	12	54	sh
Eastbourne	2.3	0.83	13	55	sh	Salcombe	X				
Edinburgh	-	-	9	48	fg	Sauntn Snd	-	0.86	12	54	sh
Eskdalemuir	-	0.01	7	45	du	Scarboro'	-	0.19	10	50	r
Exmouth	3.1	0.98	13	55	s	Shrewsbury	0.1	0.50	12	54	r
Falmouth	6.3	0.35	15	59	s	Skegness	X				
Fishguard	-	1.15	11	52	r	Southend	3.1	0.44	13	55	r
Folkestone	1.5	0.57	13	55	sh	Southport	-	0.44	10	50	r
Glasgow	-	-	9	48	fg	Southsea	4.1	0.48	14	57	s
Guernsey	0.2	0.97	14	57	sh	Stornoway	2.7	-	10	50	b
Hastings	2.1	0.75	14	57	sh	Swanage	2.8	0.92	13	65	b
Hayling I	3.4	0.54	13	55	sh	Teignmouth	3.1	1.03	14	57	b
Herne Bay	3.1	0.13	14	57	sh	Tenby	-	1.09	13	65	r
Hove	3.2	0.31	13	55	sh	Tiree	-	0.01	10	50	c
Hunstanton	X	0.19	12	54	r	Torquay	3.3	0.81	14	57	s
Isle-of-man	-	0.02	9	48	r	Tynemouth	X				
Isle-of-wight	3.6	0.73	13	55	s	West-s-mare	-	0.78	13	55	r
Jersey	3.7	1.18	14	57	sh	Weymouth	2.5	0.80	13	55	b
Kinloss	-	0.01	7	45	r						
Leeds	-	0.32	9	48	r						
Lerwick	-	0.49	6	43	r						

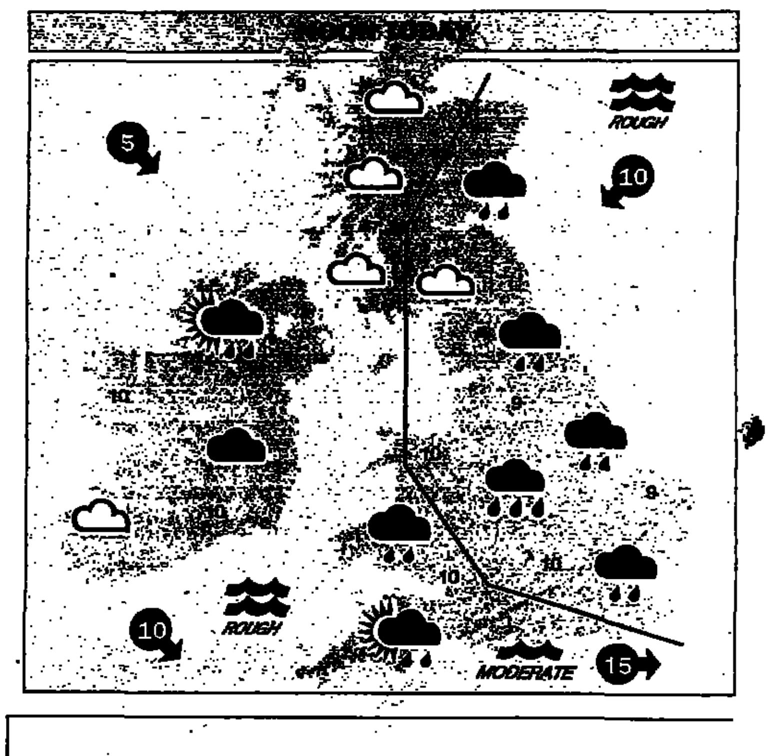
ABROAD

Ajaccio	19	66	f	Corfu	19	66	f	Madrid	11	52	s	Riyadh	23	73	s
Akrotiri	22	72	s	C'phagn	1	34	c	Majorca	18	64	f	Rome	19	66	f
Alex'dria	22	72	f	Dublin	9	48	r	Malaga	18	64	s	S Fr'sco	13	55	s
Algiers	17	63	c	Dubrovnik	13	55	c	Malta	20	68	f	Salzburg	2	36	c
Amst'dm	5	41	r	Faro	17	63	f	Melb'rne	21	70	f	Santiago	25	77	s
Athens	16	61	s	Florence	13	55	f	Mexico C	20	68	s	Seoul	7	45	s
B Aires	24	75	s	Frankfurt	4	39	c	Miami	27	81	s	Sing'por	32	90	f
Bahrain	23	73	s	Funchal	21	70	f	Milan	11	52	f	St'kholm	-4	25	f
Bangkok	35	95	f	Geneva	5	41	c	Montreal	-5	23	x	Strasb'rg	3	37	c
Barbados	30	86	f	Gibraltar	17	63	s	Moscow	1	34	sn	Sydney	35	95	s
Barcelona	15	59	f	Helsinki	-3	27	sn	Munich	0	32	c	Tangier	18	64	f
Beirut	21	70	f	Hong K	25	77	f	N Delhi	15	59	fg	Tel Aviv	22	72	s
Belgrade	5	41	fg	Innsbrck	9	48	s	N York	8	46	s	Tenerife	25	77	s
Berlin	0	32	s	Istanbul	12	54	f	Nairobi	18	64	c	Tokyo	23	73	s
Bermuda	23	73	f	Jeddah	29	84	s	Naples	19	66	f	Toronto	5	41	c
Biarritz	16	61	f	Jo'burg	14	57	c	Nice	13	55	r	Tunis	17	63	f
Borde'x	15	59	f	Karachi	X			Oslo	-1	30	s	Valencia	19	66	s
Brussels	7	45	r	L Angels	14	57	s	Paris	12	54	f	Vanc'ver	7	45	r
Budapest	7	45	c	L Palmas	24	75	c	Peking	3	37	c	Venice	13	55	f
Cairo	23	73	f	Le Touqt	11	52	f	Perth	24	75	s	Vienna	4	39	c
Cape Tn	25	77	s	Lisbon	13	55	c	Prague	2	36	c	Warsaw	-1	30	c
Ch'church	X			Locarno	10	50	s	Reykjavik	9	48	f	Wash'ton	13	55	s
Chicago	5	41	r	Luxembg	2	36	c	Rhodes	18	64	f	Wel'ngton	X		
Cologne	5	41	f	Luxor	25	77	s	Rio de J	33	91	f	Zurich	3	37	c

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: low M will move east; high S will extend northeast and intensify; low R should move slowly north; high G will drift southeast and intensify



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هكذا من الأهل

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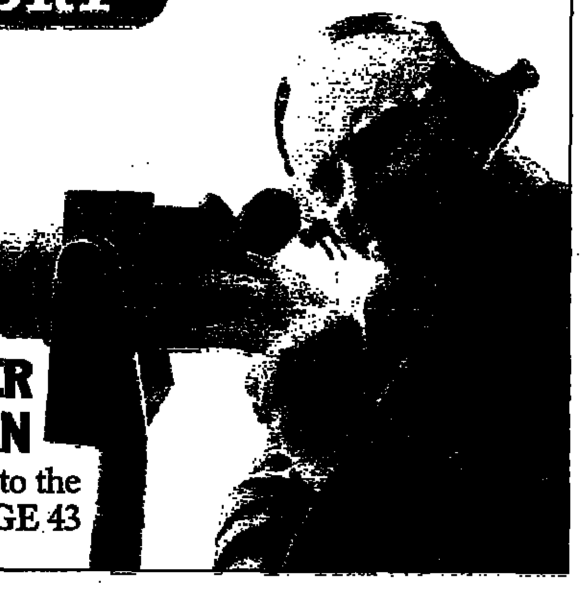

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THE TIMES
SATURDAY SPORT

NOVEMBER 29 1997

CATT FACES BALD FACTS AT TWICKENHAM

England search for kicking habit

By Rob Hughes
CHIEF SPORTS WRITER

WHEN Mike Catt stands behind the ball at Twickenham this afternoon, another capacity audience waiting to see if he has the nerve and accuracy to kick a penalty or a conversion straight, a well-rehearsed mantra should dominate his thoughts: *"Flow through the ball"*.

He must not think back to the missed kicks against New Zealand last week. He must shut out the crowd, not see the doubt in the eyes of fellow men, ignore the staring South Africans. He needs to be a man alone in England's biggest rugby ground; his mood should be tight, but not aggressive. And when he comes to the strike, he must forget about technique . . . just hit it. *Flow through the ball.*

If Catt has heard this once, he has heard it 100 times this week. "We haven't dwelt on failure," Dave Alred, the England kicking coach, said. "There isn't time. Catty lost the plot at Old Trafford. He was frustrated. He was disgusted because he's a proud man. But with the speed the games are coming, we have to concentrate on trusting the technique that is ingrained in him."

Alred, whose coaching expertise has soothed the likes of Rob Andrew and Neil Jenkins through troubled times, will know before the kick-off whether Catt is in the groove. In fact, he already thinks he knows because, at dinner last night, he had to make the final recommendation as to who should take the kicks between Catt and Matt Dawson. After hitting hundreds of balls in practice, the coach said that Catt, the No 1 England kicker, is ready.

"Kicking," Alred said, "is a lonely job. It has to be. I watched Andrew Mehrtens [New Zealand's exemplary kicker] last week. He was detached from things at the start; Mike couldn't hold on to that detachment, first because he's trying to do a job for England that he doesn't regularly do for Bath, second, because Lawrence Dallaglio, Jason Leonard and Martin Johnson brought the team up to an emotional peak that exceeded anything I've seen apart from the Lions tour to South Africa. It was so intense even the coaching staff found it difficult not to get carried into it."

For Catt, his competitiveness instilled in his early schooling in South Africa, the team spirit was unavoidable. Today, if he is swayed by Alred, he will try to compartmentalise it — to run with the team, but shoot with singleness of mind.

The coach has no illusions about the difficulty. Married with two children, Alred is attempting to conduct his own life on split levels. He has coached kickers in union and league in England, France and Australia yet is now also studying at Loughborough for a degree in the neurology of skill acquisition.

He has not filled the head of Catt with the science of the mind, but the process is there, in the subconscious. As the wind and rain relentlessly beat down on Bisham Abbey, and later at a deserted Twickenham, Alred and Catt and Dawson went through their routine, again and again. "My degree course involves brain interference through alpha waves," Alred said, "but out in the field, though I'm searching for keys to the process, it is just about perfecting the tools they already have."

He admires Catt for even trying to be England's kicker, admires his "restart" kicks and his aptitude. "I'm trying to instil the example of Grant Fox [the legendary All Black] and Ollie Campbell, of Ireland. Those guys would kick three to five hundred balls a week, that's what gave them greatness."

Long-term, Alred seeks a five-year plan to scour the country for young talent, to groom it through competitive coaching for the World Cup of 2003. "We must stop this trend of just buying ready-made kickers — great though Joel Stransky and Michael Lynagh are — because sooner or later clubs have to start the process of helping kids to scrap for their place."

That, though, is in the future. England have to find quick solutions to the gap between the southern and *northern hemispheres*.

"There is talent, innate talent, in England," Alred said, "more so than in Australia. But they've found ways to bring it through, we've trusted too long in notions of supremacy and just putting 15 talents on the field. The definition of lunacy is doing the same thing and expecting different results. Once you do what you've always done, you always get what you've got."

Today, at headquarters, the future is now. Don't think about it, *flow through the ball*.

Wales at Wembley, page 40
England's task, page 41

THE TIMES TABLE

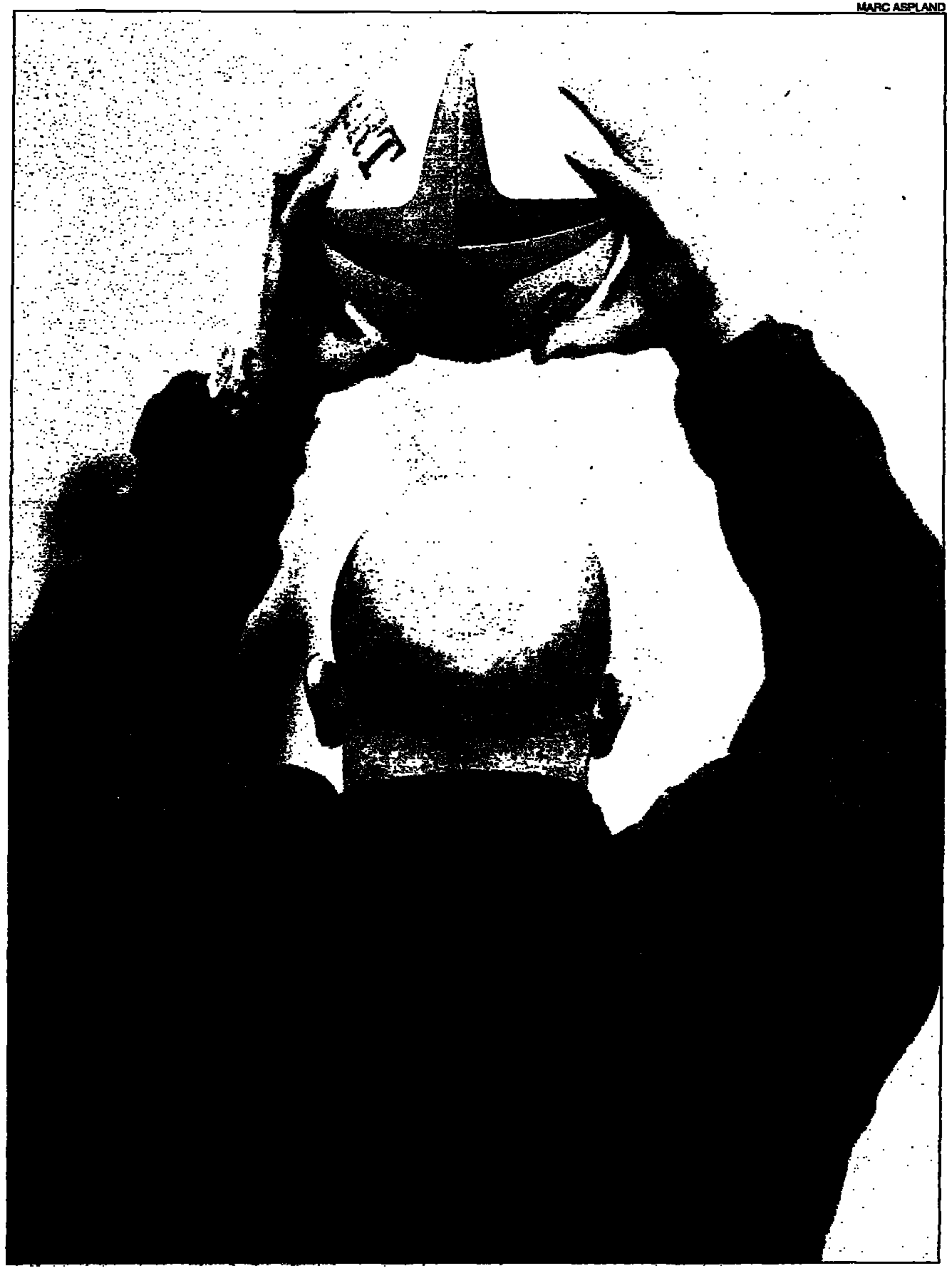
[illegible] World Cup
Full table and details, page 45

(1) NEW ZEALAND
FRANCE
(4) SOUTH AFRICA
ENGLAND
AUSTRALIA
WALES
(7) ARGENTINA
SCOTLAND
IRELAND
ITALY

(last week's positions in brackets)

TODAY: England v South Africa 2pm (Television: Sky Sports 2, live; ITV, delayed transmission, 4.15pm - not Scotland)
Wales v New Zealand 3pm (BBC1 and S4C, live)
TOMORROW: Ireland v Canada 1.45pm (BBC2, live)

Catt, left, and Dallaglio know just how important it is that England improve on their dismal kicking form of last week



MARC ASPLAND

James Dalton, the South Africa hooker, practises his lineout throw during his team's training session yesterday

Pop goes football in the court of boy-king Beckham

Way before the three worst *singers* in the world recorded *Three Lions*, football and pop music merged. Consider the job description: wear very silly trousers/shorts and sweat for an hour and a half in front of 30,000 screaming *fans dressed top to* toe in lovely, expensive merchandise.

You could get England squad dolls way before you could get Spice Girl dolls. Those football dolls are brilliant — *Peter Beardsley is next to my* pond, with a little fishing rod in his hand: and in a serendipitous manufacturing error, my titchy Andy Cole came with a wonky plinth that ensures he falls over constantly.

Football managers even speak pop-star language — Joe Kinnear's moan in a recent programme that Wimbledon's "skill and ability" is ignored by the critics, comes straight from the Lead Singer's Book of Whining Interviews; whilst Simon Fuller, the deposed Spice Girls' manager, would make a wonderful Liverpool manager. He already manages Steve McManaman; and he worked those girls hard.

So, as a music journalist, I didn't feel too hugely out of place at Wimbledon v Manchester United last Saturday, an ideal chance to work out if Karel Poborsky is using an Alice band or just lots of hairpins on that extraordinary 'do. Considering this barnet, and his performance this season, it also allowed me to check my theory that, in the euphoria of Euro 96, Manchester United had accidentally signed Carol Poborsky, a single mum from the Ukraine who'd made the international women's side. Unfortunately, he spent the entire match on the bench with his hood up; so I concentrated instead on Paul Scholes.

I was delighted to find that I recognised him immediately as the star of a birthday card sent to a friend *last year. You may recall the* picture — it's a rather blustery day. Paul has forgotten to put his pants on and, as he falls, a gust of wind reveals that he keeps a tiny bald mouse in his shorts. I think it's rather sweet that United chose a wee mouse as their mascot and take it with them on the pitch for good luck.

The oddest thing about Selhurst Park, however, was discovering that football matches are more orderly and decorous than the average spit 'n' sawdust rock 'n' roll hoedown.

As the only time you see football fans on television is when they're either a) drunkenly hugging each other, with their faces painted to look like Flags of All Nations, or b) with blood running down their faces, a baton embedded at a jaunty angle in *their heads and using plastic seats as* particularly ineffective weapons, I was astonished to find myself in the calm of the family "No Swearing" enclosure.

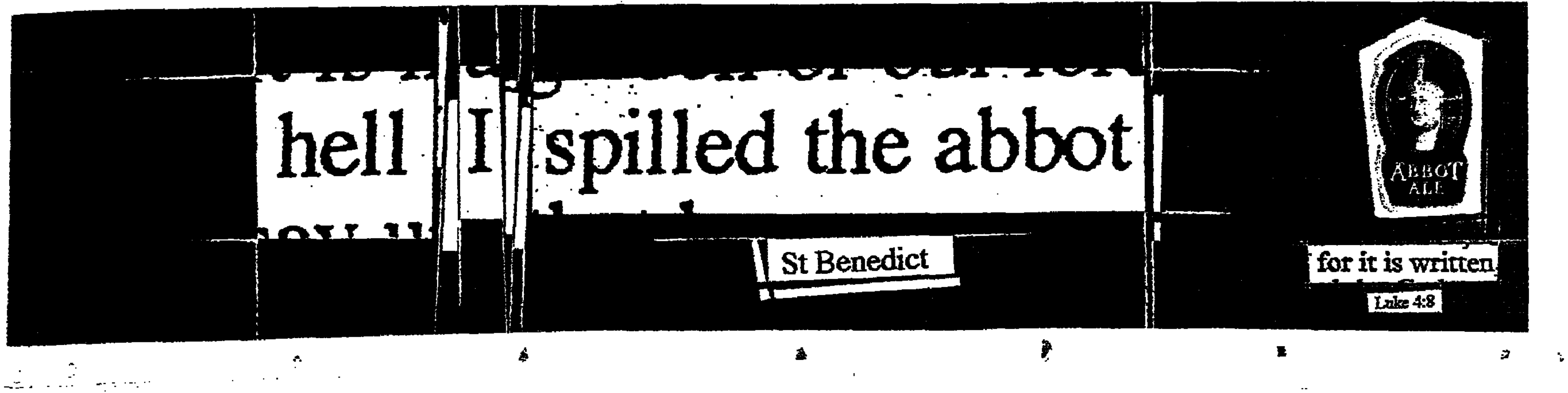
No swearing! If this is for the benefit of the children, then staff at Selhurst Park are on a hiding to nothing — children are filthy little swear-weasels. Bands as Dettol-clean as Take That used to inspire banners that read "Robbie — point your erection in my direction".

The children here were slightly better trained, satisfying themselves with hoarse cries of "Oi, Beckham! Do you 'Wannabe' playing?" as he warmed up on the touchline. As pop stars have tiny little microsensors in their heads, which trigger the "aloofness" and "deafness" functions on *hearing their names bellowed.* I was strangely delighted to see that Beckham responded with a boy-king beam and then a slightly twonkier little wave. The Gallaghers could learn a lot about the nobility of fame from Beckham.

There were lots of goals scored in the second half, but I was looking the other way. Some aspects of football were starting to obsess me. Maybe . . . maybe Poborsky uses a hairnet? Or might it just be mousse?

CAITLIN MORAN

The music journalist ready for a change of tune



هكذا من الاصل

Sweden build powerful position on opening day of Davis Cup final

US hopes crippled by Sampras injury

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN GOTHENBURG

Bjorkman, who beat Chang in four sets, puts maximum effort into a forehand return. Photograph: Cristof Stache

SWEDEN took a firm grip on the Davis Cup here yesterday when their players advanced to a 2-0 lead in this best-of-five-rubber final against the United States. Jonas Bjorkman drew first blood when he inflicted a punishing defeat on Michael Chang and Magnus Larsson extended Sweden's lead after Pete Sampras, trailing 6-3, 6-7, 1-2, was forced to withdraw with a pulled calf muscle.

The injury to Sampras had the effect of pouring salt into an already gaping wound. Not only must the United States win the remaining three rubbers to lift the trophy, they may have to do so without the world No 1. Sampras required a medical time-out when trailing 4-5 in the second set. His left ankle was heavily strapped, but his movement was restricted thereafter.

Three years ago, Sampras defaulted with an identical calf injury against Stefan Edberg; Sweden went on to win both that semi-final and the Davis Cup itself. No nation has recovered from a 2-0 deficit in the final since Australia overcame the United States in 1939.

Larsson thus extended his recent record against the world's best player to three successive victories. He was the first to cite the circumstances as unsatisfactory, although he had posed Sampras problems long before the latter's injury became noticeable. Larsson's service arm was like an ancient catapult, hurling boulders in his opponent's direction.

Bjorkman, for his part, earned his victory the hard way in an absorbing, if error-strewn, encounter. To a cacophony of rolling drums and blaring horns, he survived a stern test of character to prevail in four sets. The match was a crushing experience for Chang, after he had rebounded with typical gusto from the loss of the opening set.

However, one tumultuous rally was enough to release the demons which have haunted him for the last three months. The blow he sustained midway through the third set was enough to destabilise a tanker.

It was a rally Chang had several opportunities to terminate, yet it concluded with him in a prostrate heap at the feet of the net-cord judge. Bjorkman, until then in a deep trough of his own, took the point, and with it, the momentum to run clean away with the match. "That was the big turnaround for me," the Swede acknowledged.

So much of that rally was reflective of a match in which ascendancy changed with frustrating regularity. Chang had responded to dropping the opening set by overwhelming Bjorkman 6-1 in the second. He was serving for a 4-2 lead in the third, and stood at game point, when his cause spiralled hopelessly out of control.

From an attacking position, Bjorkman was forced onto the defensive when his lob somehow threaded its way between a maze of central heating pipes suspended from the stadium's roof. Chang, confronted with a overhead smash, really should have buried the ball in the crowd, but so well did Bjorkman read his intentions that the Swede immediately regained the initiative.

Then, faced with high backhand volley to claim the point, Bjorkman slipped, somehow reached the ball and followed up with a drop half-volley. The American ran the ball down but sent his riposte beyond the baseline.

A vociferous crowd, in danger of losing interest, suddenly erupted, stirring Bjorkman from his slumber and condeming Chang to an experience he will not readily forget. The American capitulated beyond recognition following the loss of that point. From 2-3 down, Bjorkman reeled off the next five games before Chang momentarily stopped the rot. By now, however, a youthful skip had returned to Bjorkman's stride, his aggressive approach paying handsomely as he prevailed 7-5, 1-6, 6-3, 6-3 in five minutes short of three hours.

Chang felt that the crowd's enthusiastic contribution made no impact on the match. However, the noise that greeted Bjorkman winning an extended rally must have lifted his spirits. A posse of drummers — accompanied by horn players, bellringers and whistle blowers — gave this the feel of beach football in Brazil.

It was more than Chang could deal with. He looked thoroughly dejected afterwards, savaging his own efforts to provide his country with a winning start. "I just don't know what happened out there," he said. "The first set was a disaster, just a joke. I picked it up after that, but that was a pretty important point I lost to go 4-2 up in the third set. Not only am I disappointed, I feel like I let the other team members down a bit."

SNOOKER: RECOVERY OF STEVENS SPARKED BY THREAT OF WHITEWASH IN UNITED KINGDOM CHAMPIONSHIP

Hendry attacks as best form of defending record

BY PHIL YATES

Hendry: efficient

IN OMINOUSLY efficient manner, Stephen Hendry closed in on his fifth consecutive appearance in the final of the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship by establishing a 6-2 lead over Matthew Stevens at Preston Guild Hall yesterday.

The only negative for the title-holder, who at the end of a high-quality session stood only three frames away from extending his winning sequence at the event to 23 matches, was a failure to compile a landmark 400th century break in professional competition. Hendry, understandably confident after his quarter-final victory over Alan McManus, had the opportunity to reach that mark in each of the first five frames. He scored runs of 85, 81, 68, 62 and 96, but wasted two particularly clear-cut openings.

In the second frame, on 81, Hendry missed an elementary black off its spot with the remaining balls ideally situated and in the fifth, on 96, he jawed a pink to a distant pocket. Even so, when Hendry cleared brown to black in the next, to move 6-0 ahead, the possibility of a whitewash could not be discounted.

Stevens, who caused an upset by beating Hendry 5-1 in the first round of the Grand Prix last year, accounted for the last two frames of the session with contributions of 83 and 97 to retain a glimmer of hope.

Ronnie O'Sullivan described his form as "embarrassing" after beating Gerard Greene 9-6 in the quarter-finals. While this is undoubtedly not the case, it is true that Stephen Lee has the ability to exploit any shortcomings when they meet today.

The discontent voiced by O'Sullivan is reminiscent of his feelings during the 1993 UK championship when, improving with every match, he became at 17 years and 11 months the youngest winner of a world-ranking tournament.

In the final he defeated Hendry 10-6. The Scot, who has protected a 100 per cent record at the Guild Hall since then, admitted to underestimating O'Sullivan, but there is no likelihood of that if they renew their rivalry for the £75,000 first prize as expected tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the political instability that plagued snooker a year ago is again threatening to resurface. A board meeting of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association has been called for Monday, when the future of its chief executive, Jim McKenzie, will be discussed.

Ian Doyle, head of the Team GdeZ Capital Management Group that includes Hendry, O'Sullivan and Ken Doherty, the world champion, is a staunch supporter of McKenzie, who many believe has made a favourable initial impression within the game since his appointment during the summer and has not yet been given sufficient time to prove his worth.

BOXING

Nelson set to channel energies in France

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

JOHNNY NELSON, of Sheffield, has been spared the long and difficult trip to Chernobyl to defend his European cruiserweight title. His bout against Alexander Gurov has been switched from the site of the 1986 nuclear disaster in Ukraine to Grande Synthe, near Dunkirk, France, the December 16 date unchanged.

Frank Maloney, the promoter, who won the purse bidding and originally gave Gurov, a southpaw, home advantage, met with the Mayor of Grande Synthe on Thursday and has secured sufficient local support to stage the bout on the other side of the English Channel. Maloney said: "I changed the venue because I got a better offer from France. I now intend to set up a promotional company there." Nelson will be happy with the change, having beaten Patrick Aouissi to win the European title in Berck-sur-Mer in February.

Geoff McCreesh, the British welterweight champion, was also involved in a guessing game over venues. His challenge for the vacant European title against Michele Piccirillo now goes ahead tonight just outside Milan, the fourth location for the bout. It is difficult for any visitor to come away from Italy with a title, although Robin Reid managed it 13 months ago when he claimed the World Boxing Council super-middleweight crown from Vincenzo Nardiello, also in Milan.

Piccirillo has a record of 24 wins in 25 starts, with 16 inside the distance, which indicates a demanding night for McCreesh. The sole defeat for the Italian came at the hands of Soren Sorensen, a Dane of fair class, in a bout to decide the European Boxing Union light-welterweight title last year. McCreesh, whose record is 18 wins and four defeats, does not really compare, but he is in the best form of his career and it would be unwise to write him off. McCreesh, who overcame personal tragedy after his brother and mother died in car accidents, came back to take the British title from Kevin Lueshing in July.

David Starie, of Ipswich, the former British super-middleweight champion, has injured a hand and has had to withdraw from his contest with Mark Baker, of Sidcup, for the vacant Commonwealth title at the Wembley Arena next Saturday. Baker will now meet Clinton Woods, the unbeaten Sheffield boxer, after the Commonwealth Council approved the bout on a bill featuring Herol Graham, who meets Vinnie Pazienza, the colourful American.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Wigan fail in bid for Sculthorpe

■ **RUGBY LEAGUE:** A substantial offer by Wigan Warriors for Paul Sculthorpe, 20, the transfer-listed Great Britain loose forward, has been turned down by Warrington Wolves (Christopher Irvine writes). It could take a fee close to the record £440,000 that Wigan paid Widnes for Martin Offiah in 1992 to secure his signature.

London Broncos are maintaining their interest, despite signing five Australian players this week. Steele Retchless and Matt Toshack, from South Queensland Crushers, are the latest additions.

German threat

■ **ROWING: Greg Searle, Britain's leading sculler, will defend his national indoor title at Reading tomorrow, when domestic challengers will include Simon Dennis, Louis Attrill, Richard Dunn, Dave Beckley and Richard Hamilton from the 1997 British eight. A German threat is offered by Stefan Forster, of Cambridge University, and Jürgen Hecht, who is at Oxford.**

Stratford stage

■ **CYCLING:** British hopes of victory in the international cyclo-cross event tomorrow on the new, fast Eastway three-kilometre circuit at Stratford, East London, are likely to rest with Nick Craig, the London Open champion, Barrie Clarke, holder of the national title, and Roger Hammond, the former world junior champion. They will face strong opposition from Belgian, German and Swiss riders.

Croatia out

■ **BASKETBALL: England face Spain at Plymouth tonight in the second match of their European championship qualifying programme but Croatia have pulled out of the non-championship game due to be played at Portsmouth tomorrow. England will now play Leopards, the Budweiser League champions, instead.**

Tour hat-trick

■ **GOLF:** Colin Montgomerie's record fifth successive Order of Merit victory has helped to earn him the PGA European Tour's Johnnie Walker golfer-of-the-year award for the third successive season.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Almondsbury v Kintbury; Fairford v Wantage; Tuffley v Shortwood

ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Bedlington Terriers v Billingham Town; Billingham v Durham; Crook v Consett; Dunston Federation v RTM Newcastle; Guisborough v Morpeth; Jarrow Roofing v Shildon; Murton v Tow Law; Penrith v South Shields; Stockton v Easington CW

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Canterbury v Greenwich; Chatham v Herne Bay; Corinthian v Deal; Cray v Sheppey; Crockenhill v Folkestone Invicta; Erith v Thamesmead; Faversham v Beckenham; Ramsgate v Hythe; Slade Green v Lordswood; Tunbridge Wells v Swanley Furness; Whitstable Town v VCD

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Torrington v Keynsham

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division south: Harefield v Amersham; Haringey Boro v Barkingside; Hillingdon Boro v Cockfosters; Ruislip Manor v Beaconsfield SC; Margaretsbury v Hanwell; Waltham Abbey v Brook House; Woodford v Brimsdown. Premier division north: Arlesey Town v Langford; Biggleswade v Potters Bar; Buckingham Athletic v London Colney; Hoddesdon v Harpenden; Milton Keynes v Brache Sparta; Royston v Welwyn Garden.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal v Queens Park Rangers (11.0); Crystal Palace v Portsmouth (11.0); Fulham v Cambridge Utd (11.0); Norwich v Millwall (11.0); Southend v Gillingham (11.0); Tottenham v Charlton (10.30); Watford v Leyton Orient (11.0). Second division: Bournemouth v Luton (11.0); Colchester v Reading (11.0); Oxford Utd v Barnet (11.0); Southampton v Bristol Rovers (11.0); Swindon v Brighton (11.0); Wimbledon v Bristol City (11.0); Wycombe v Brentford (11.0)

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Bilston Community College v Wellesbourne; Bolehall Swifts v Kenilworth; Cheslyn Hay v Handrahan Timbers; Continental Star v Southam; Coventry Sphinx v Studley BKL; Dudley Sports v Worcester Co; Kings Heath v Coleshill; Knowle v Alvechurch; Meir KA v [illegible] Lloyds AFC

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Enfield OG v Glyn OB; Old Suttonians v Cardinal Manning OB. Senior first division: Old Reigatians v Old Kingsburians

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Crouch End Vampires v West Wickham; Polytechnic v Carshalton; Winchmore Hill v Old Esthameians; Old Owens v Old Latymerians; Southgate Olympic v Ibis; Old Stationers v Kew Association; Brentham v Alleyn OB; Old Westminster Ctz v Broomfield

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash v Cove; Bedfont v Merstham; Feltham v Cobham; Chipstead v Viking Sports; Farnham v Chessington and Hook; Godalming and Guildford v Westfield; Reading Town v Raynes Park Vale; Sandhurst v Ashford; Walton Casuals v Netherne.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton LR v Salford; Burscough v Atherton Collieries; Darwen v Vauxhall GM; Glossop North End v Holker Old Boys; Maine Road v Rossendale; Mossley v Kidsgrove; Nantwich Town v Clitheroe; Newcastle Town v Blackpool Rovers; Ramsbottom v Prescot Cables; St Helens v Haslingden; Warrington v Chadderton.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Saffron Walden v Burnham Ramblers

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Brierley Hill T v Westfields; Bustleholme v Bloxwich S; Ettingshall v Stafford T; Gornal A v Wolverhampton C; Kington Town v Stourport S; Ludlow T v Lye Town; Malvern T v Cradley Town; Tividale v Darlaston; Walsall Wood v Wolverhampton.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Clacton v Felixstowe Port and; Harwich and Parkeston v Ely; Newmarket v Halstead; Soham v Sudbury; Sudbury v Lowestoft; Tiptree v Bury Town; Warboys v Stowmarket; Woodbridge Town v Histon

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington v Thatcham Town; Aerostructures v Bournemouth; BAT v Christchurch; East Cowes v Downton; Eastleigh v Whitchurch; Gosport v Totton; Portsmouth v Andover; Wimborne v Bemerton Heath

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston v Ford Sports; Bourne v Eynesbury; Kempston v Long Buckby; Northampton Spencer v Yaxley; Potton v Buckingham; St Neots v Desborough; Stamford v Wootton; Stotfold v Holbeach; Wellingborough v Mirrlees Blackstone

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Hassocks v Mile Oak; Peacehaven and Telscombe v Burgess Hill; Portfield v Saltdean; Whitehawk v Redhill; Wick v Hailsham

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Boldmere St M v Bloxwich Town; Bridgnorth v Oldbury; Chasetown v Wednesfield; Pelsall V v Shifnal T; Rushall O v Stratford T; Sandwell v Kings Norton; Stapenhill v Knypersley V; W Mid Police v Pershore T; Willenhall v Rocester

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare v Hallam; Brigg Town v Eccleshill; Denaby v North Ferriby; Ossett Albion v Glasshoughton Welfare; Pickering v Curzon Ashton; Pontefract Cols v Ossett Town; Selby v Liversedge; Sheffield v Hatfield Main; Thackley v Hucknall Town

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Beverley v Askam (2.0); Heworth v Oldham St Anne's (2.30); Leigh Miners v Lock Lane (2.30); Saddleworth v Egremont (2.30); Walney Central v Mayfield (2.0). First division: Blackbrook v Shaw Cross (2.30); Eastmoor v Milford (2.30); Millom v Leigh East (2.0); Moldgreen v East Leeds (2.0); Skirlaugh v Barrow Island (2.0); Thornhill v Redhill (2.0). Second division: Dewsbury Moor v Siddal (2.0); Eccles v Crosfields (2.30); Featherstone Amateur v York Acorn (2.0); New Earswick v Dodworth (2.0); Ovenden v Hull Dockers (2.0)

RUGBY UNION

International matches

England v South Africa (at Twickenham, 2.0)
Wales v New Zealand (at Wembley, 3.0)

Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup

Group B

Orrell v Rotherham (12.0)

Group C

Sale v Bristol (12.0)

Group D

Cambridge Univ v Blackheath (3.0)
London Scottish v Bedford (11.30)

Jewson National League
First division

London Welsh v Morley (2.15)

Second division north

Hinckley v Aspatria (2.30)
Nuneaton v Stourbridge (2.30)

Second division south

Cheltenham v Barking (2.30)
Havant v Camberley (2.30)
Henley v Redruth (2.0)
North Walsham v Met Police (3.0)

NORTH: First division: Hull Ionians v West Park Bramhope; Middlesbrough v Macclesfield; Stockton v Bridlington

TETLEY'S BITTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: North: Pool A: Cumbria v Nottinghamshire Lincolnshire and Derbyshire (at Penrith, 2.30); Warwickshire v Durham (at Rugby, 2.30). Pool B: Leicestershire v Cheshire (at Syston, 2.30); North Midlands v Lancashire (at Stourbridge, 2.15). Pool C: Northumberland v Staffordshire (at Morpeth, 2.0); Yorkshire v East Midlands (at Sheffield, 2.15). South: Pool A: Cornwall v Sussex (at Redruth, 2.30). Pool B: Hertfordshire v Berkshire (at Tabard, 2.30). Pool C: Hampshire v Kent (at US Portsmouth, 2.30). Pool D: Devon v Middlesex (at Tiverton, 2.0); Oxfordshire v Somerset (at Banbury, 2.30).

Tennents Premiership
First division

Boroughmuir v Heriot's FP (2.0)
Currie v West of Scotland (2.0)
Edinburgh Acads v Melrose (2.0)
Jed-Forest v Watsonians (2.0)
Stirling County v Hawick (2.0)

Second division

Biggar v Kilmarnock (2.0)
Gala v Kirkcaldy (2.0)
Glasgow Hawks v Dundee HSFP (2.0)
Kelso v Preston Lodge (2.0)
Musselburgh v Peebles (2.0)

Third division

Aberdeen GSFP v Stewartry (2.0)
Ayr v Selkirk (2.0)
Glasgow Southern v Hillhead/Jordanhill (2.0)
Glenrothes v Gordonians (2.0)
Stewart's Melville FP v Grangemouth (2.0)

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: London Counties Under-21 v New Zealand Under-21 (at Twickenham, 11.45)

CLUB MATCHES: Plymouth v Penzance (2.30); Preston Grasshoppers v Kirkby Lonsdale (2.15)

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Barford Tigers v East Grinstead (at Alumwell Community Centre, Walsall, 12.0); Beeston v Hounslow (at Highfields, Nottingham, 1.30); Cannock v Guildford (at Moms Ground, 12.0); Doncaster v Canterbury (at Bennetthorpe, 2.0); Southgate v Old Loughtonians (at Trent Park, 2.0); Teddington v Reading (at Reeds School, Cobham, 2.0). First division: Brooklands v Gloucester City (at Georges Road, Sale, 2.0); Chelmsford v St Albans (at Chelmer Park, 2.15); Havant v Bournville (at Havant College, 1.45); Hull v Oxford Hawks (at Dane Park Road, 12.0); Indian Gymkhana v Sheffield (at Thornbury Avenue, Isleworth, 1.30); Isca v Loughborough Students (at Exeter School, 2.0); Lewes v Hampstead and Westminster (at Southdown Club, 1.30); Oxford University v Harleston Magpies (at St Edward's School, 12.0); Stourport v Bluebarts (at Kidderminster School, 1.30); Surbiton v Firebrands (at Sugden Road, 1.0); Warrington v Bromley (at Penketh County HS, 1.30)

ESL SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier League: Beckenham v Old Whitgiftians; Bournemouth v Chichester; City of Portsmouth v Eastcote; Fareham v Anchorians; Gore Court v Herne Bay; Ramgarhia v Maidenhead; Richmond v Purley; Trojans v High Wycombe; Tunbridge Wells v Wimbledon; Winchester v Woking. Hampshire/Sussex: Andover v Blandford; Barnes v Old Walcountians; Camberley v Portsmouth; Epsom v Dorking; London University v Basingstoke; Old Mid-Whitgiftians v Old Cranleighans; Old Georgians v Goan; Ciancott v Oxted; Spencer v Cheam. Kent/Sussex: Sexley Invicta v Folkestone; Blackheath v BBHC; Brighton v Middleton-Bognor; Burnt Ash v Marden Russets; Eastbourne v Old Williamsonians; Lloyds Bank v Horsham; Newhaven v Ashford; Sevenoaks v Mid Sussex; Tulse Hill v Old Holcombeians; Worthing v Old Bordenians. Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Amersham v Farnham Common; Bracknell v PHC Chiswick; City of Oxford v Lions; Gerrards Cross v Hayes; Hendon v Phoenix; Newbury v Sunbury; Old Kingstonians v Ashford; Staines v Richings Park; West Hampstead v Marlow; Wokingham v Milton Keynes

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE MIDLAND LEAGUE: Premier division: Blossomfield v North Notts; Coventry and North Warwicks v Hampton-in-Arden; Edgbaston v Harborne; Khalsa v Northampton Saints; North Stafford v Bloxwich; Nottingham v Olton and West Warwicks.

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Ben Rhydding v Chester; Durham University v Sheffield Bankers; Neston v Timperley; Norton v Harrogate; Southport v Wigan; Swalwell v Formby

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Bishop's Stortford v Luton Town; Cambridge University v Ipswich; Clacton v Colchester; Crostyx v Cambridge City; Sudbury v Peterborough Tn. Premier division B: Bedford v Redbridge and Ilford; Bury St Edmunds v Romford; Dereham v Old Southendian; St Ives v Norwich City; West Herts v Ipswich and East Suffolk.

WEST OF ENGLAND AND SOUTH WALES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bristol University v Cheltenham; Robinsons v Swansea; Taunton Vale v Bath Buccaneers; Weston-super-Mare v Exeter University; Whitchurch v Clevedon.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Slough v Hightown (12.0); Clifton Scottish Life v Sutton Coldfield (12.30); Trojans v Olton Terraquest (1.30); Doncaster v Ipswich (12.0). First division: Canterbury v Loughborough Students (12.0); Wimbledon v Bracknell (12.0); Leicester v Bradford Swithenbank (12.30); Sunderland Bedans v Chelmsford Highway (12.30). Second division: Old Loughtonians v Woking Swifts (1.0); West Witney v Ealing (12.0); Bluaharts v Sherwood (12.30); Aldridge v Poynton (2.0)

WELSH WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Cardiff Athletic v Newport; Colwyn Bay v Pontypridd; Swansea v Penarth; Cardiff Institute v Newtown

WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Ashford v Ipswich; Bury St Edmunds v Welwyn Garden City; Harleston v Dereham; St Albans v Sevenoaks. Midlands: Belper v Crimson Ramblers; Hampton v Pelsdwick; Leicester v Kettering; North Staffs v Luton. North: Chester v York; Leyland M v Sheffield; Liverpool Sefton v Blackburn; Welton v Winnington Park. South: Dulwich v Tulse Hill; Hendon v Winchester; Horsham v Hampstead; Maidenhead v Southampton; Winchmore Hill v Reading. West: Colwall v Bournemouth; Exeter v Leominster; Exmouth v St Austell; Redland v Cheltenham; Taunton Vale v Yate

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: European championship: Semi-final: England v Spain (at Plymouth Pavilions)

BOXING: World Boxing Organisation and International Boxing Federation intercontinental light-welterweight championship: J Thaxton (Norwich, holder) v R Blaus (Lat) (at Norwich Sports Village). European welterweight championship: M Piccirillo (It, holder) v G McCreesh (Bracknell) (in Bari).

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Nottingham v Basingstoke (7.0); Bracknell v Ayr (6.0).

LACROSSE: Shepherds Friendly Society League: Premier division: Stockport v Poynton; Cheadle Hulme v Hulmeians; Timperley v Heaton Mersey Old Waconians v Cheadle; Mellor v Sheffield University

SNOOKER: Liverpool Victoria UK championship (in Preston).

TOMORROW

RUGBY UNION

International match

Ireland v Canada (at Lansdowne Road, 1.45)

Tour match

Saracens v Tonga XV (3.0)

Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup
Group A

West Hartlepool v Fylde (3.0)

Welsh League
First division

Bonymaen v Newbridge (3.0)
Merthyr v Dunvant (2.30)

TETLEY'S BITTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: South: Pool B: Dorset and Wiltshire v Gloucestershire (at Bournemouth, 2.30). Pool C: Surrey v Buckinghamshire (at Imber Court, 3.0).

HOCKEY

EHA MEN'S CUP: Fifth round: Barford Tigers v Reading (at Alumwell Community Centre, Walsall, 2.0); Beeston v Southgate (at Highfields, Nottingham, 2.0); Cannock v Old Loughtonians (at Moms Ground, 2.30); Canterbury v Hounslow (at Polo Farm, 1.0); Chichester v Hampstead and Westminster (at Kingsham Fields, 1.0); Ipswich v Stourport (at Tuddenham Road, 12.30); Old Cranleighans v Spalding (at Portsmouth Road, Thames Ditton, 1.30); St Albans v Doncaster (at Clarence Park, 1.0).

EHA WOMEN'S CUP: Fourth round: Bracknell v Epsom (1.0); Bradford v Slough (at Lightcliffe, 2.15); Chelmsford v Southampton (1.0); Didsbury Greys v Trojans (at Manchester HS, 1.30); Doncaster v Bluenarts (12.30); Ealing v Leicester (at Eastcote HC, 2.15); Exeter v Aldridge (1.30); Harleston Magpies v Dereham (12.0); Hightown v Canterbury (at Formby CC, 12.0); Loughborough Students v Crimson Ramblers (2.30); Olton v Taunton Vale (2.0); Poynton v Charnwood (1.30); Sunbury v Welton (1.0); Sutton Coldfield v Swindon (2.30); Vinney Bay v Clifton (at Temple Park SC, 11.0); Woking S v Wimbledon (1.30)

OTHER SPORT

CYCLING: International cyclo-cross (at Eastway Circ, Stratford, East London, 1.30)

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Sheffield v Newcastle (6.30); Cardiff v Bracknell (7.0). Express Cup: Manchester (6.0); Basingstoke v Ayr (6.0)

SNOOKER: Liverpool Victoria UK championship (in Preston)

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Detroit 55 Chicago 20; Dallas 14 Tennessee 27.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Indiana 106 Vancouver 85.

CRICKET

Third Test match

Australia v New Zealand

HOBART (second day of five): Australia have scored 273 for five wickets against New Zealand

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

M T G Elliott c Young b McMillan	114
*M A Taylor b O'Connor	18
G S Blewett b Doull	99
M E Waugh not out	21
S R Waugh c McMillan b Doull	7
R T Ponting c Parore b Cairns	4
†I A Healy not out	3
Extras (lb 5, w 1, nb 1)	7
Total (5 wkts)	273

P R Reiffel, S K Warne, M S Kasprowicz and S H Cook to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-41, 2-238, 3-238, 4-246, 5-266.

BOWLING: Doull 24-9-58-2; O'Connor 28-6-71-1; Cairns 29-12-64-1; Astle 12-5-32-0; McMillan 13-4-34-1; Vettori 2-0-9-0

NEW ZEALAND: M J Horne, B A Young, †A C Parore, *S P Fleming, R G Twose, C D McMillan, N J Astle, C L Cairns, D L Vettori, S B Doull, S B O'Connor.

Umpires: S Davis (Australia) and R B Tiffin (Zimbabwe).

Second Test match

India v Sri Lanka

NAGPUR (third day of five): India have scored 485 against Sri Lanka

INDIA: First Innings

†N R Mongia c Muralitharan b Pushpakumara	11
N S Sidhu c Atapattu b Vaas	79
R S Dravid c Atapattu b Vaas	92
*S R Tendulkar b Pushpakumara	15
M Azharuddin lbw b Pushpakumara	62
S C Ganguly c Tillekeratne b Pushpakumara	99
A Kumble run out	78
J Srinath lbw b Jayasuriya	11
R K Chauhan c Vaas b Jayasuriya	1
A P Kuruvilla lbw b Pushpakumara	0
N M Kulkarni not out	1
Extras (b 8, lb 13, w 3, nb 12)	36
Total	485

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15, 2-152, 3-182, 4-272, 5-303, 6-482, 7-476, 8-484, 9-484.

BOWLING: Vaas 31-3-80-2; Pushpakumara 32-3-122-5; Silva 28-6-81-0; Muralitharan 46-9-137-0; Ranatunga 1-0-8-0; Jayasuriya 16-4-32-2; Atapattu 1-0-4-0.

SRI LANKA: S T Jayasuriya, M S Atapattu, R S Mahanama, P A de Silva, *A Ranatunga, H P Tillekeratne, †L K L de Silva, W P U J C Vaas, M Muralitharan, K R Pushpakumara, K J Silva.

Umpires: C J Mitchley (South Africa) and V K Ramaswamy (India).

TOUR MATCH (second day of four): Perth: South Africans 468 (G Kirsten 201, S M Pollock 100, P L Symcox 54; J Stewart 4-121); Western Australia 117-1 (M E Hussey 58 not out).

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (second day of four): Melbourne: South Australia 452 (D Fitzgerald 81, D S Webber 69, B Young 66, J D Siddons 60); Victoria 144-2 (D M Jones 58 not out, L Harper 55). Brisbane: Tasmania 307 (D J Marsh 82 not out; S Muller 5-73) and 12-2; Queensland 237 (J P Maher 71).

SUPERSPORT SERIES: First day of four: Durban: Natal v Eastern Province — no play, rain. Johannesburg: Gauteng 89 (C F Craven 5-26); Free State 15-0. Johannesburg: Boland 100 (P S de Villiers 4-35, M J R Rindel 4-17); Northern Transvaal 41-4. Second day of four: Kimberley: Border 278; Griqualand West 257 (L Bosman 77).

DANCE SPORT

BLACKPOOL: National championships: Professional Standard: 1, A Sinkinson and C Jorgensen; 2, T Howson and J Bolton; 3, S Draper and L Memner; 4, T Dokman and A Owen; 5, B and L Drolet; 6, M and D Lucas. Professional Latin: 1, B Watson and K Hardy; 2, P Killick and V Toft; 3, G and N Nordin; 4, P Richardson and L Dawson; 5, J Byrnes and J Lyttleton; 6, M Lunn and J Baltzer. Amateur Standard: 1, C Hawkins and H Newberry; 2, A and D Shingler; 3, J Crossley and K Jones; 4, M Reilly and V Hobden; 5, C Draper and V Hill; 6, G Taplin and L Hammond. Amateur Latin: 1, M and N Cutler; 2, A Grundy and L Palmer; 3, A Kainz and K Beesley; 4, M Robertson and C House; 5, D Watson and M Karlsson; 6, D Bennett and L Kopylova. Under-21 Standard: 1, A Walker and H Denton-Holmes; 2, B Redmond and S Wood; 3, L Portas and J Spencer; 4, V Simone and F Cacace; 5, W Boyce and H Davey; 6, P McCann and V Martin. Under-21 Latin: 1, D Bennett and L Kopylova; 2, J Jordan and E Haraldsdottir; 3, P Hurley and L Bellinger; 4, Simone and Cacace; 5, McCann and Martin; 6, N Quesnot and J Garling

FOOTBALL

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: West Ham 5 Ipswich 0.

Thursday's late results

EUROPEAN CUP CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE: Group A: Borussia Dortmund 4 Galatasaray 1; Parma 2 Sparta Prague 2. Group B: Manchester United 3 FC Kosice 0. Group C: Dynamo Kiev 1 PSV Eindhoven 1. Group D: FC Porto 2 Olympiakos 1; Rosenborg 2 Real Madrid 0.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Cup: Second round: Gloucester 2 Newport AFC 2

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Norwich 1 Watford 1

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Aston Villa 1 Everton 1; Liverpool 0 Stoke 1

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Whitchurch 1 Gosport 1.

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: First-round replay: Bristol 0 Swindon 0 (aet; Bristol Rovers win 10-9 on pens).

DUTCH LEAGUE: Volendam 3 FC Groningen 1; RKC Waalwijk 1 NAC Breda 0.

SOUTH AMERICAN SUPERCOPA: Semi-final, second leg: Colo Colo (Chile) 0 São Paulo 1 (São Paulo win 4-1 on agg).

GOLF

MELBOURNE: Australian Open: Leaders after two rounds (Australia unless stated): 133: N O'Hern 67, 66. 134: L Westwood (GB) 68, 66. 135: G Norman 68, 67. 136: B Partridge 67, 69; S Allan 66, 70. 137: P Mickelson (US) 69, 68. 138: S Leaney 66, 72. 139: A Coltart (GB) 65, 74; S Appleby 69, 70; P Devenport (NZ) 69, 70. 140: C Parry 70, 70; R Damron (US) 68, 72; P Lonard 63, 77. 141: G Evans (GB) 70, 71; P Senior 68, 73. 142: G Chalmers 70, 72; R Allenby 68, 74; V Singh (Fiji) 73, 69; C Spence 67, 75; D Anderson 67, 75; J Cooper 71, 71; M Calcavecchia (US) 69, 73.

HOCKEY

NATIONAL INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIP: South qualifiers: East Grinstead: Semi-finals: Reading 4 Purley 4 (Reading win 3-2 on pens); Bromley 7 West London Institute 5. Final: Reading 9 Bromley 6. Maidenhead: Semi-final: Maidenhead 8 Hendon 7. Final: Teddington 8 Maidenhead 1 (Reading and Teddington qualify for national rounds.)

ICE HOCKEY

SUPERLEAGUE: Basingstoke Bison 3 Bracknell Bees 1.

EXPRESS CUP: Cardiff Devils 1 Newcastle Eagles 0.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Ottawa 3 Washington 1; St Louis 2 Los Angeles 2; Calgary 2 Chicago 2; Phoenix 1 Dallas 4.

SHOOTING

LANGKAWI, Malaysia: Commonwealth championships: Smallbore free rifle: Three-positions: 1, C Hector (Eng) 1,238pts; 2, A Razak (Malaysia) 1,236.2; 3, R Law (Scot) 1,218.3. Skeet: 1, M Thompson (Scot) 1,442; 2, K Christos (Cyprus) 1,442; 3, R Thorpe (NZ) 1,442 (order decided after tie-breaker). Men's air pistol: 1, G Yelavich (NZ) 669.2; 2, J Rana (India) 668.7; 3, N Baxter (Eng) 660

SAILING

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE: Second leg (Cape Town to Fremantle): Final positions: 1, Swedish Match (Swe) finished after 15 days 3hr 45min 3sec; 2, Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 15:22:02:35; 3, Toshiba (US) 16:05:12.12; 4, Silk Cut (GB) 16:15:06.09; 5, EF Language (Swe) 16:20:06.00; 6, Chessie Racing (US) 17:11:51.47; 7, Merit Cup (Monaco) 19:02 37.07; 8, EF Education (Swe) 19:10 15:32; 9, BrunelSunergy (Holl) 19:11.24:39. Volvo Trophy positions: 1, Innovation Kvaerner 207pts; 2, EF Language 197; 3, Silk Cut 168; 4, Swedish Match 161; 5, Merit Cup 158; 6, Toshiba 157; 7, Chessie Racing 132; 8, EF Education 80; 9, BrunelSunergy 36.

SNOOKER

PRESTON: Liverpool Victoria UK Championship: Quarter-finals: S Hendry (Scot) bt A McManus (Scot) 9-5; R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt G Greene (Eng) 9-6. Semi-final: Hendry leads M Stephens (Wales) 6-2.

SQUASH

MONACO: Women's Monte Carlo Classic: Quarter-finals: S Fitz-Gerald (Aus) bt C Nitch (SA) 9-2, 9-0, 9-4; E Irving (Aus) wo S Schöne (Ger); S Wright (Eng) bt J Martin (Eng) 4-9, 9-0, 9-3, 9-8; C Jackman (Eng) bt L Charman (Eng) 10-8, 9-6, 9-2.

TENNIS

GOTHENBURG: Davis Cup: Final: Sweden 2 United States 0 (Swedish names first: J Bjorkman bt M Chang 7-5, 1-6, 6-3, 6-3; M Larsson bt P Sampras 3-6, 7-6, 2-1 ret).

BURBANK, California: HealthSouth-USTA challenger tournament: Second round: S Sargsian (Arm) bt A Reichel (US) 6-2, 6-2; B MacPhie (US) bt A Hunt (NZ) 2-6, 6-4, 7-6; T Larkham (Aus) bt C Vinck (Ger) 6-3, 3-6, 6-4; M Sinner (Ger) bt G Doyle (Aus) 6-2, 4-6, 7-6; R Jabali (Br) bt J Salzenstein (US) 6-3, 7-6; A Agassi (US) bt B Coupe (US) 7-5, 6-2; M Sell (US) bt D DiLucia (US) 6-1, 7-5; D Nestor (Can) bt G Bastl (Switz) 7-6, 6-3.

REDBRIDGE: European women's team championship: First division: Great Britain 1 Sweden 1 (Great Britain names first: L Woodroffe lost to A Svensson 3-6, 4-6; S Smith bt A Lindstedt 4-6, 6-4, 6-3); Austria 1 France 0.

هكذا من الأهل

A chilling tale of two beards

What ho, chaps — a feud! All week Chelsea supporters have been producing match programmes to show me the harsh words said about this column by their chairman Ken Bates. At first I thought Ken might be upset over the fact that I like to draw attention to the fact that, at a club notorious for Fancy Danism, this Chelsea squad are setting new standards for foppish posturing.

Who can forget the squealing that arose when the club played in Norway in temperatures which, although chilly, were by many degrees warmer than those which munitions factory workers laboured under in two world wars?

Ken may not have been behind the Whining That Shamed British Football, but he must take credit for one of the more far-seeing schemes which was mooted back in the potty mid-Eighties, when identity cards and electronic tagging of fans seemed to be on the way. For it was Ken who fought long and hard for the introduction of electric fences into his ground, which might show the Stamford Bridge faithful just where their £10 admission fee ended and Celebrity Row began.

I remember one magnificent TV interview in which the Kentollah, white beard a-bristlin', urged reporters to see that football fans were little better than organised cut-throats, and that five million volts of the sudden and juiciest were the only language these people might understand. I liked him then and I still do.

However, I think it is another reason — and a far more credible fear — which has led to his theatrical attack upon this still young space. That is Millwall's early exit from the FA Cup. It is a matter of public record that, most seasons, in one cup or another, Chelsea come a cropper to their neighbours from The Den.

If I had a pound for every time we've brought low the High Living Lads From Fashionable King's Road, then I would buy the club and have them cut out the panstick and highlights and concentrate on being a credible opposition who might, occasionally, punch their weight. Anyhow, this season Wimbledon and Bristol City have done Mr Bates's dirty work for him and with his ever-alert brain free of this potentially humiliating cloud, he now sets about harassing the Lions' No 1 supporter with impunity. I, of course, shall keep my own counsel.

Lastly, a third, comic, thought occurs. With the imminent release of the epic film *Titanic*, ordinary people might begin to notice that Ken Bates bears a starting resemblance to that fated ship's Captain, E. J. Smith. Aside from the usual crass connection made between the Unsinkable Liner and Ruud Gullit's first XI, it will surely not escape historians' attention that the final movements of Captain Smith were never satisfactorily accounted for. Could they be one and the same person? They certainly seem to share an aversion to Arctic conditions.

In memoriam

ITV would like to thank all those who sent cards and messages of condolence following the tragic death of their football match, Barcelona v Newcastle, on Wednesday night.

The fixture died quietly, in its sleep, in front of 150 supporters, and is not thought to have suffered, unlike the millions of waiting *Coronation Street* fans. It will be buried without fuss in the scramble to broadcast any football, no matter how pointless. Ian St John is 106.

☐ Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday from 5.30pm.

Which is the Chelsea chairman and which the *Titanic* captain? Could they be related? Or possibly one and the same person?

One more lookalike

I know the column has used up its lookalike quotient, but if someone gets in with this one before next week I shall rage like Rumplestiltskin. Here it is. Recent photographs of Christian Gross, the disastrous new managerial appointment under whom Spurs will be lucky to win a corner, must surely make the heart leap of any keen fan of the Pink Panther. For with his hooded eyes, pursing mouth and intense demeanour we are staring into the mirror reflection of Herbert Lom, much praised for his portrayal of Commissioner Dreyfuss — Inspector Clouseau's slow-burning boss. Soon we shall see the development of hilarious Dreyfuss-style facial tics and unstable rambling in Herr Gross and the picture will be complete.

DANNY BAKER

Heads you lose

One of the most noble sporting pursuits in the world has been rocked by scandal. Researchers this week say they can find no evidence that Afghanistan tribesmen have ever played polo with a human head. Who are these busybodies who travel the globe smugly stripping away whatever shreds of exotica still remain on our daily less mysterious rock? What good can it do them to smash the wonder from little boys' imaginations and remove from pub conversation the one sporting topic that united both public and saloon?

The image of an Afghan horseman expertly navigating his speeding charger among the opposition, spotting a gap in their defence, and then, with one swift arc of is upturned rifle butt, crisply firing home the sightless loaf of a former enemy from all of 30 yards is one I have carried with awe for nearly 30 years. Indeed, with a regularly recharged glass and a hushed company, I have often taken a little licence and claimed to have been actually present at such exhibitions while travelling from Herat to Kandahar. Now, thanks to the unwanted meddling of a quango of idiotic students who probably wouldn't know a severed human head from a Panama hat, I look a complete and utter fool.

If these pipe-sucking killjoys next come sniffing around the legend of Bert Trautmann and his famous broken neck, I'm afraid I may have to take matters into my own hands.

Fantasy game of one half

After a recent appeal to find what extra frisson is experienced by a gay man at a football match, I receive a tremendous letter from a Simon of Leigh-on-Sea. While the phrase "fantasy football" may have been done to death, it is perhaps the only one adequate for the intense mental visions Simon has built up during his time on the terraces. His letter arrives complete with Panini stickers of the players who make his pulse pick up the tempo, alongside a few words of the function they serve in the active erotic spring of Simon's libido. I am indebted to him for sharing his daydreams with me, and pass them along to you in turn.

1. **John Spencer** (Queens Park Rangers): With those tough, builder looks, I imagine him *al fresco* beside a half-built house among bits of wood and empty concrete sacks. No hard hats, but he is wearing a check shirt and torn, dirty jeans.
2. **Duncan Ferguson** (Everton): With that natural arrogance which is so plainly Duncan, I imagine a master-servant situation. Obviously he holds the whip.
3. **Steve McManaman** (Liverpool): Steve is that really good-looking bloke whom you see across a bar and who flirts outrageously with you all night.
4. **Ugo Ehiogu** (Aston Villa): My yearning for something exotic results in us sharing drinks, then a heated whirlpool bath.
5. **Ryan Giggs** (Man Utd): One word — watersports.
6. **David Beckham** (Man Utd): We get talking and he lets me educate him as to the error of his ways with the least appropriately named Spice Girl.

Here, Simon's squad terminates because, rather sweetly, he doesn't want to part with his stickers of Henning Berg, Mark Pembridge, Neil Ardley, Chris Armstrong and Jamie Redknapp, and feels the magic will not work in description alone.

Perhaps he is right. For myself, I can't quite shake off the feeling that, because of a path denied to me by a whim of nature, all my life I have watched but half a match.

CRICKET: TROUBLED WEEK PRECEDES SECOND INTERNATIONAL AGAINST CONFIDENT PAKISTAN

West Indies survive test of patience

From Michael Henderson in Rawalpindi

THAT was the week that was for West Indies. From Peshawar, where they lost the first Test match against Pakistan inside four days, they travelled to Hyderabad, where they declared the hotel accommodation unacceptable and returned to Karachi. A one-day game in Hyderabad was abandoned when the pitch was waterlogged and so they reached Rawalpindi, where the second Test starts today, in high dudgeon.

Clive Lloyd, their manager, who took them away from Hyderabad as soon as he discovered that his players would have to sleep three to a room in a rest house, is in no mood to compromise. Faxes have been flying backwards and forwards all week between the touring party and the Pakistan Cricket Board in an attempt to establish the degree of culpability.

It is easy to take sides with Lloyd. Some of the stories about the Hyderabad experience are almost beyond belief. Players who went into the kitchen found the chef preparing food on the floor. Michael Holding, covering the series for Caribbean television, discovered scorpions trying to invade his hotel room and was told: "They're only little ones."

What on earth the West Indians were doing in a place like that is hard to imagine. It is one thing taking the game to parts of the country where international players are rarely seen, but surely nobody sound of mind sends touring teams to towns that are not equipped to stage such games, never mind keeping the players in bread and water.

Waqar: recall

All of which means that West Indies go into the final two Tests of this series having had no cricket since their shambolic performance in Peshawar. They have doubts about the fitness of Ambrose and Stuart Williams and will probably prefer another fast bowler, most likely Rose, to Lewis, whose wrist spin looks ordinary.

The pitch is green in appearance, drier than the rest of a square that has absorbed a lot of rain, and offers the prospect of decent pace. Pakistan, therefore, may go into the match with only one spinner, Mushtaq Ahmed, although Saqlain, the off spinner left out of the first Test, is available. He replaces Arshad Khan, who looked out of his depth in Peshawar and was a "local pick" if ever there was one. Waqar Younis, omitted at Peshawar for reasons that were hard to fathom and have not been fully explained, will play and Shoaib Akhtar, a local bowler who toured England earlier this year with the Pakistan A team, will probably make his Test debut. Once again, Pakistan have shown their aptitude for finding and promoting talented young players.

David Lloyd, the England coach, watched the players at practice after arriving here yesterday. On Tuesday, he moves on to Lahore, where England play two one-day matches next week before the forthcoming quadrangular competition in Sharjah, where Pakistan and West Indies will also be involved.

Blewett joins unlucky 99ers

GREG BLEWETT gained the dubious honour yesterday of being the first Australian to be out on 99 twice, spoiling an otherwise dominant batting display by Australia on the second day of the third Test in Hobart against New Zealand.

Despite a late flurry of wickets, Australia were in command at 273 for five at the close, having added 234 runs for the loss of five wickets after most of the first day was lost to rain. Blewett, who played on to his stumps one short of what would have been his fifth Test century, also played on when on 99 last January in the fourth Test against West Indies. He is the seventh player in Test history to be out twice on 99. Michael Atherton, the England captain, is the only other present player to have met this fate.

Matthew Elliott, the left-handed opener, scored his third Test century, although he was dropped twice and will not look back on the innings as one of his prettiest.

Elliott's dismissal for 114, when the score was 238, triggered a collapse, with four wickets falling for 28 runs. Simon Doull, the medium-pacer, took two wickets for one run in ten balls.

Scoreboards, page 34

Ganguly denied century

SOURAV GANGULY was dismissed one run short of a second successive Test century as India compiled a formidable first-innings total on the third day of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Nagpur.

However, rain prevented any play after lunch and gave Sri Lanka an excellent chance of avoiding defeat. Ganguly, who made 109 in the drawn first Test last week, helped India to take their overnight score of 401 for five to 485 all out. Sri Lanka have yet to start their reply.

Ganguly was caught at first slip off Ravindra Pushpakumara, the seam bowler, whose five wickets ensured that India lost their last five batsmen in adding only 23 runs. Ganguly and Kumble took their overnight stand of 98 to 159 before Kumble, who completed his third Test half-century in 42 matches, was run out.

Srinath was leg-before to Jayasuriya, the left-arm spinner, and then Chauhan and Ganguly were dismissed in successive balls. Pushpakumara moved one away from Ganguly and Tillekeratne took a smart, low catch. Pushpakumara then had Kuruvilla leg-before to finish with five for 122.

GOLF

Westwood revels in confidence of youth

From Patricia Davies in Melbourne

THE Australians were a bit taken aback by Lee Westwood after the second round of the Australian Open at the Metropolitan club in Melbourne yesterday. They knew that he was the European No 3 this season and that he was in prime form, having won twice in the four weeks before the Open, but they were not quite prepared for the self-confident young man who had a 66, six under par, to be just one shot off the lead, on 134, ten under.

Andrew Coltart, the Scot who won the Australian PGA Championship in Sydney last Sunday, had led, on 11 under par, after four birdies in his first seven holes, but the gusting southwesterly wind reduced him to a guessing game and he dropped six shots in the last ten holes to finish with a 74 and a total of 139, six behind the obligatory Open unknown.

Nick O'Hern, 26, a left-hander from Perth, Western Australia, was out in front, having carried his own bag to a 67 on Thursday and then, with his wife, Alana, in charge of the clubs, added a 66 yesterday. But O'Hern, who uses a 48-inch putter and has made only three cuts (this one included) in his career, has nothing like the experience of Westwood, 24, and they are both aware of the man in third place, on 135, one Greg Norman. He has won the title for the past two years and is also the world No 1. Not that it bothers Westwood.

"Sure I can," he answered, when asked if he could win. "I'm in the second-best position out of anybody at the moment, but Greg Norman's still there and you can't take the world No 1 lightly when he's one shot behind you."

In his early days, Westwood said, he was in awe of some players, including Norman, but that is in the past. "Reputations shouldn't count for anything when you're playing against people," he said. "After a while you learn to believe you are as good as them. I don't think there's any real difference between my game and Greg Norman's, but he's a lot more used to being in contention. He's been out there a lot longer than I have."

Norman, a venerable 42, recalled how he had taken 80 when paired with Jack Nicklaus for the first time, in the Australian Open, as a youngster. "The first time I played with Nicklaus, I shot 70," Westwood said, mischievously. That was this year, in the final round at Augusta, but he had made his audience sit up.

ATHLETICS

Chataway to lead recovery

By John Goodbody

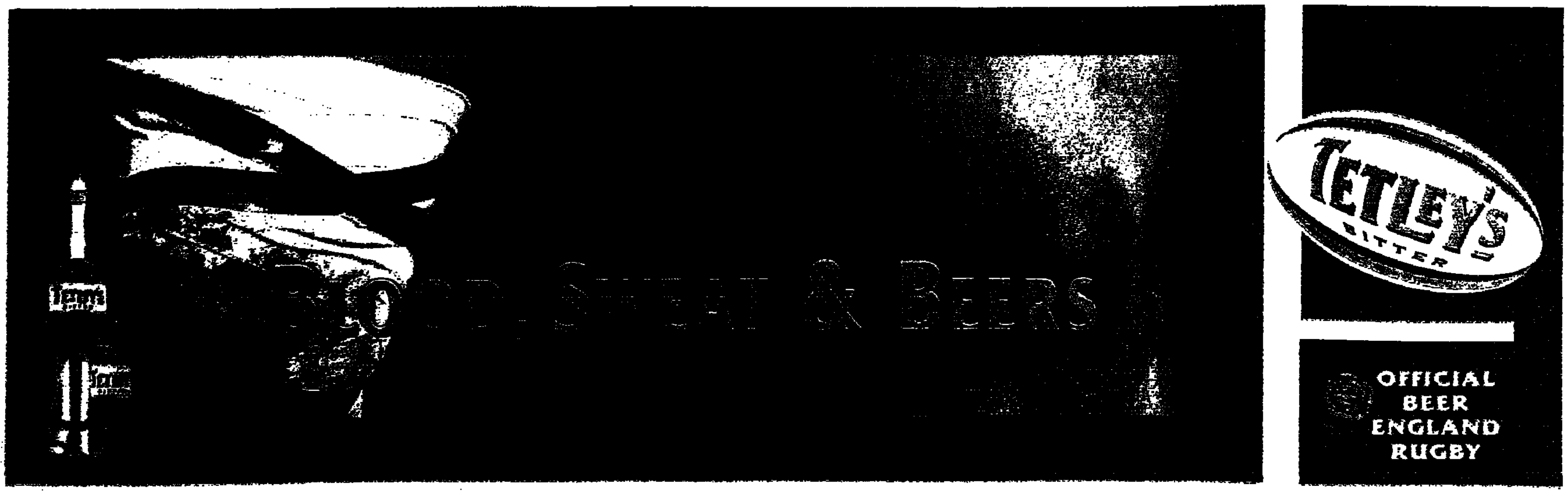
SIR Christopher Chataway, the former MP and world 5,000 metres record-holder, is to head a steering group to plan the future of British athletics, whose governing body is in administration with a deficit of £530,000.

In the meantime, £300,000 of taxpayers' money will be used to fund a new company, UK Athletics '98, which will provide interim organisation.

Also on the steering group is David Moorcroft, the former chief executive officer of the British Athletic Federation, and Sir Paul Fox, the former managing director of BBC network television.

A leading promotional company, such as the International Management Group or Alan Pascoe Associates, may well take over the commercial side of the sport, such as the running of international meetings. Moorcroft said yesterday that there were "better agencies" at delivering some areas of the sport than the national governing body.

Moorcroft added that many now accepted that a national registration scheme for all athletes was likely. This exists in other Olympic sports, such as swimming, rowing, judo and weightlifting and is fundamental towards the funding of those sports.



The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Tom Whitelaw, of Bearsden in Scot

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Far too skilful to be trusted

REBECCA NADEN

Ginola in action on Monday night. Most of Tottenham's best attacks stemmed from him

How sad and symptomatic that almost as soon as Christian Gross has taken charge of Tottenham Hotspur, the cry goes up that he will, and should, jettison David Ginola.

Symptomatic of the deep distrust that English football traditionally has for the unorthodox player, whether it be Charlie Buchan, Len Shackleton or those other Spurs stars, Glenn Hoddle and Paul Gascoigne.

Sad, too, the concomitant emphasis that Gross will have Tottenham training and running harder. It takes one back to the aftermath of England's historic 6-3 defeat by Hungary at Wembley, 44 years ago, when Watford, then a third division club, promptly announced that in future, their players would be training twice a day!

In principle, one welcomes the arrival of Continental coaches in this country, something one has long recommended. Ruud Gullit has given new life and allure to Chelsea. Arsène Wenger is at least an interesting figure at Arsenal, though his disciplinary tolerance and his transfer policy remain unconvincing.

Danny Bergara, the Uruguayan, beavering in the lower reaches of the League, has had his moments. Overall, however, there has been scant reciprocity between Britain and the world at large. British coaches initially went out to teach and preach the game. Even today, the demand for them abroad is quite startling.

Scarcely had Graeme Souness been run out on a rail from Torino, of Italy's Serie B, then he had been made manager of famous, if impoverished, Benfica. Scarcely had Gerry Francis left Spurs than the other big Lisbon club, Sporting, were knocking at his door.

As against that, Jozef Venglos, the likeable and able Slovakian, failed as a manager at Villa Park despite one hallucinatory home success against Internazionale. He never really got to grips with his players.

Ivan Golac, a right back for Yugoslavia and Southampton, made a bright beginning in charge of Dundee United, even winning the Scottish Cup against Rangers, but thereafter it was all downhill.

Oscar Arce, the much travelled Argentine, had limited success as coach at Sunderland and Sheffield United, but did good work with Millwall's juniors.

Part of the trouble, clearly, is that the role of the manager abroad is so different from here, where he is expected to be a Protean figure, a wheeler-dealer as well as a coach.

Can Gross succeed? One hopes so, though the odds are against him and the appointment, on the face of it, is a strange one. Not because one has anything but respect for Swiss football, whose qualities tend to be underrated.

Doubts reside in the fact that Gross's appointment seems to have been made in some panic, involving a manager who, however able, hardly arrives trailing clouds of glory. Wenger, by contrast, was very much a known quantity, for seven years the successful manager of AS Monaco before he went off to make money in Japan.

Much nonsense has been talked, not least by Alan Sugar, about Gerry Francis having somehow "betrayed" his principles, implying that he should have gone on trying to grind out results rather than go for exciting football in the grand Tottenham tradition.

Which is where Ginola comes in. What Francis so long needed, and notably failed to find, was an "inside-forward" in the White-Harmer-Hoddle-Gascoigne succession to make things happen in midfield.

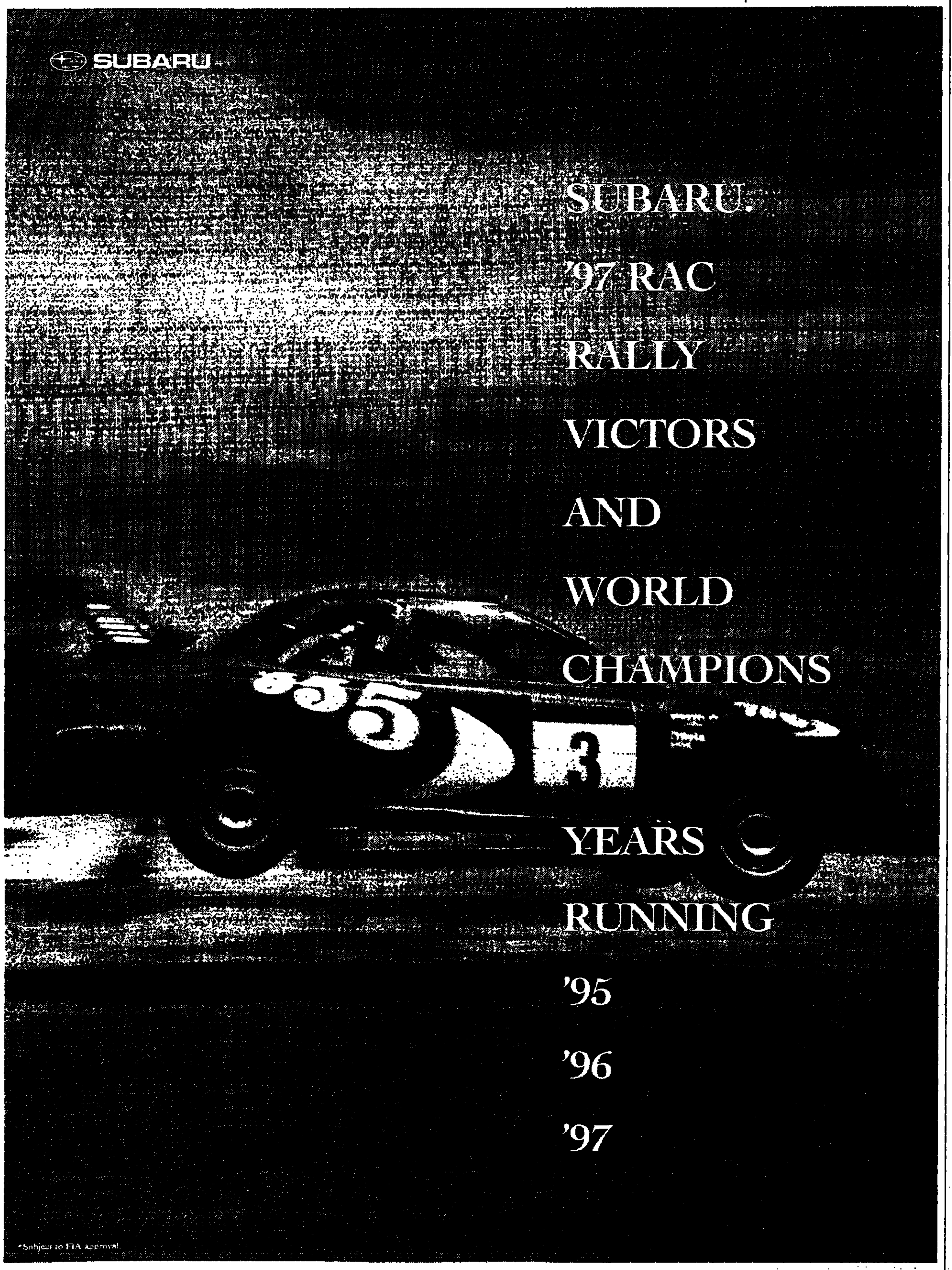
Against Crystal Palace last Monday night Ginola supplied the want by moving into the middle of the left wing. If gaps were thus left there, why did other players not fill them? Ginola showed outstanding skills, used the ball well, and was behind almost every decent Spurs attack. If he lost the ball before the only goal of the game to Edworthy, should not Clements, running with the full back, have caught him?

I declare an interest. I have followed Ginola's mercurial career since watching his dazzling displays in the Toulon under-21 tournament nine years ago, when he was an inside forward rather than a right-footed left winger.

Kevin Keegan, another believer, thinks Ginola was traumatised when sent off two seasons ago against Arsenal. More probably, it was when he was blamed for giving the ball away near the end of the France-Bulgaria World Cup game in Paris, costing a goal by Kostadinov, defeat and elimination from the 1994 finals.

Am I in an informed minority? Note, pray, that after Monday's game, Ginola was warmly praised by Steve Coppell, Palace's manager, despite his "shortcomings". It was Disraeli who said that "the defects of great men are the consolation of dunces".

Leboeuf's view, page 39



Colin McRae and Nicky Grist storm to victory in the RAC Rally and Subaru take their third World Manufacturers' Title. Continuing proof that for consistent performance, build quality and reliability, nothing beats a Subaru. Call 0990 100568.

A miracle on Merseyside

Mark Hodkinson experiences mixed emotions while travelling to Anfield on Barnsley's magic bus

LIFE AT THE TOP

The ball is in the net (apparently), and my new best friend has me in an aggressively affectionate headlock. He is screaming — yelling — shouting down my ear. When my brother grim finally lets go, I have to stay on my feet and volunteer an extra syllable to Barnsley as we cheer "Barns-a-lee" to the afternoon sky.

I am not a Barnsley supporter (I am not even from Yorkshire), yet here I am at Anfield, the only impartial observer among 3,000 devotees in the away end. As experiences go, this is strictly exiles, like passing a church and suddenly finding yourself at a wedding ceremony among strangers, and strange strangers at that.

The day begins at Oakwell, a fog drifting across the club car park. We all have neatly printed coach tickets and neatly packed lunches. Barnsley, at the foot of the table, have lost their past five away games and conceded 40 goals already this season. Understandably, no one mentions football as the coach picks its way through the mist towards Liverpool. The man behind me, however, mentions crisps a lot. He has a two-year-old grandson and has found a sure-fire way of making baby-sitting easy. "Crisps. I just feed him crisps," he explains. "How many does tha' give him?," asks his friend. "Oh, about four packets."

The coach parks alongside Stanley Park at the ludicrously early time of 1.30pm — this day is going to be long. I look at my match ticket and start to worry: Row 1, Seat 36, and, just to confirm that I have got the seat from hell, stamped across it is "Uncovered Seat", which means get set to get wet.

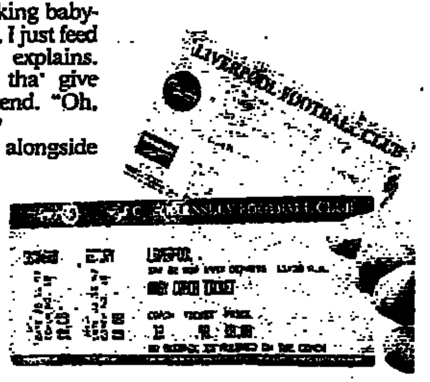
Now, I'm actually very lucky to have the ticket. Barnsley is a club loyal to its principles, and, initially, only season ticket holders were were allowed to buy one. "They'd lynch me if I sold one to a reporter," revealed a member of staff.

Row 1, Seat 36, in the Lower Anfield Road End is as appalling as it sounds. To create Row 1, Seat 36 in your own living room, you must switch on *Match of the Day* and lie down flat on your stomach about six inches from the television. Place a fruit bowl between you and the screen — at Anfield, this is a photographer and his equipment — and, just in case there remains a modicum of enjoyment from your mole's eye view, ask various members of your family to push past wearing fluorescent jackets in the manner of club stewards.

The supporters sharing my mole hole all appear to be disconcertingly above average height and weight, not to mention volume and intoxication. On either side, sit two blokes, the size of telephone boxes. When they both stand up, which is every ten seconds, I have no choice but to rise with them. The one on my left is middle-aged, and, it seems, fairly peaceable. Abruptly, he asks a steward to move out of the way. "You couldn't organise a piss-up in a brewery, yer Scouse bastard," he yells as an afterthought.

If football has gone effete, no one has told Barnsley. *Everyone* sings. Mums, dads, lads, they all scream themselves hoarse, and the look in their eyes is intense; it betrays a raw, bloody-minded passion for their team, their town, their family, their mates. They sing as if their lives depend on it, and I do too.

Out on the pitch, Barnsley are hardly in the game, but, on a break, the ball appears to find its way into Liverpool's net. Here comes my head lock, and, for a horrible second, my neighbour is squeezing me violently, pressing his face close to mine. In this mêlée of hostile pleasure, I have never felt so lonely, never missed my own team and my own kind so much.



Passport to Anfield: sought-after tickets

No one in the stalls has any idea who has scored, since the goal went in at the Kop End, which is only visible with the aid of a tripod and a pair of binoculars.

Somehow, Barnsley hold out and the goal celebrations are repeated at the end of the match. They are given extra seasoning as the supporters around me goad the stewards and police into a few minor skirmishes.

Back on the coach, we are made to wait an hour before setting off, and it takes almost a further hour to negotiate the traffic congestion in Liverpool. It is still foggy in Barnsley when we arrive just before 8pm.

A couple are just leaving their house, dressed up for a Saturday night out. "Was it a good match?," they shout. "Yeah," I reply instinctively. The truth is, I don't know.

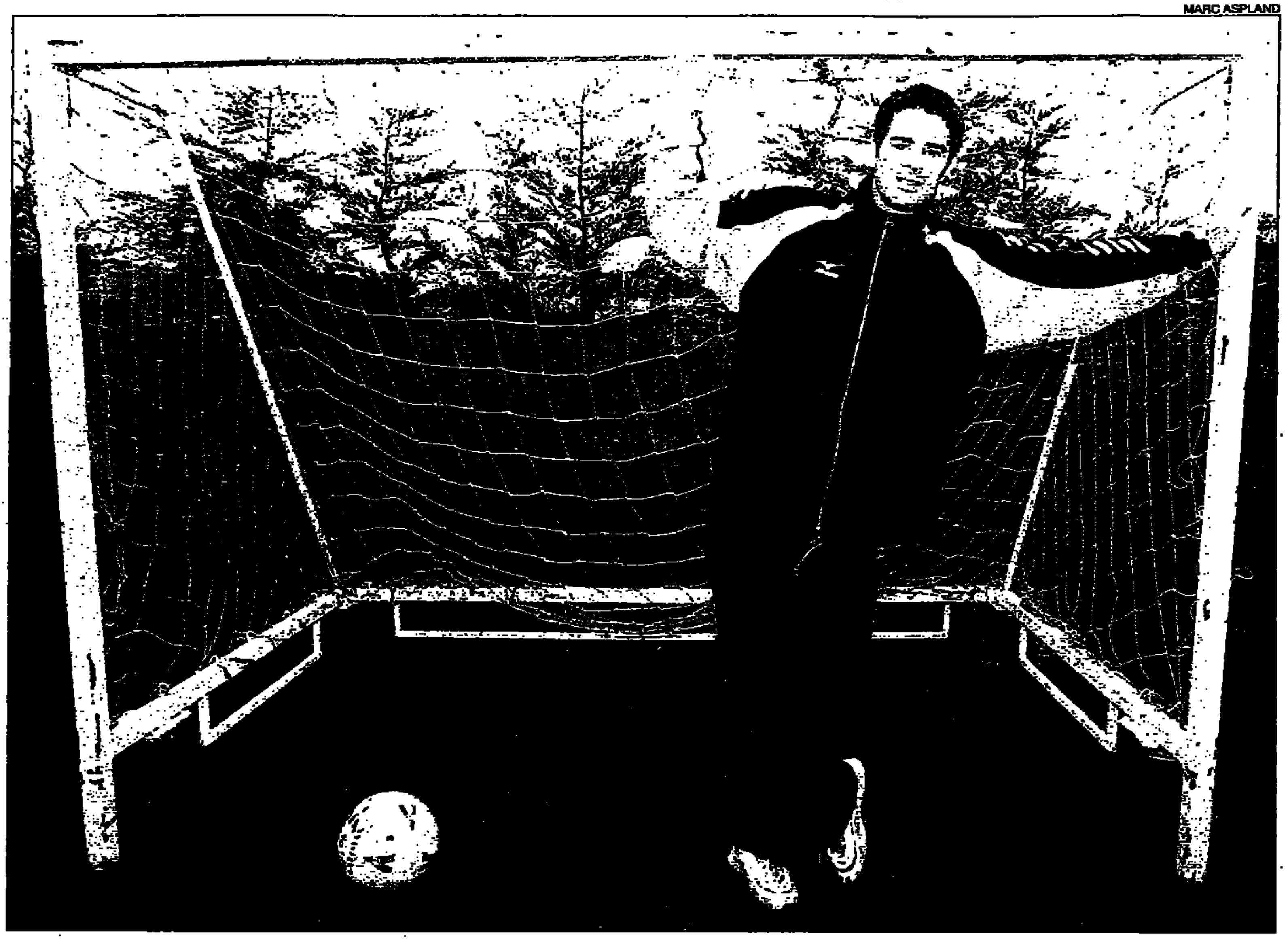
هكذا من الأصل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Art and soul of dedicated football man

He may have a teen idol's looks and a pop star girlfriend, but the real Jamie Redknapp is focused on the welfare of Liverpool and England

MARC ASPLAND



Jamie Redknapp's frequent conversations with his father, Harry, are dominated by one topic — their mutual love of the game

The giant metal doors swung open and the gatekeeper appeared. Lugubrious and suspicious, the guardian of the Liverpool training ground seemed puzzled that anyone wanted to invade his territory on the players' day off. Then the question brought a smile to his face. "Jamie?" he said, half-turning. "He's out there on his own."

Out there on the great expanse of green in the midst of the Merseyside suburbs, Jamie Redknapp was lost in his own private world, a solitary figure consumed by his art. A woolly hat pulled down over his ears, he practised and he practised until the sweat was dripping from him. He could have been any parks player pursuing the dream of perpetual improvement.

Occasionally, for a bit of light relief, he worked on some tricks, mainly an exotic turn effected by jumping on top of the ball and dragging it round to one side with the top of the foot in one eye-blinking moment.

For the most part, though, it was hard labour, working on his weaker left foot, crashing shot after shot against the wooden practice walls away on the far side of the pitch. He only had one ball to work with: if the shot went high or wide, he trotted off doggedly to retrieve it.

Eventually, he finished. He juggled the ball, not on the top of his foot but on his upturned instep, 30 or 40 times and then, as a finale, he flicked it up with a flourish and volleyed it towards one of the goals. It cannoned against the underside of the crossbar and bounced down and up into the net. The session over, he strode back to the clubhouse.

And the rest of his day off? He drove to a city-centre restaurant, had a bowl of pasta and talked about football, about Terry Venables and Glenn Hoddle, the England managers he has played under, and about the plight of Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, and his respect for the man who is coming under increasing pressure at Goodison Park.

OLIVER HOLT

When he got back to his waterfront flat with its vaulted brick ceiling and its view of the cathedral spires, he went straight to the television to look at the headlines on teletext and read the top story about David Burrows rejoining Ron Atkinson at Sheffield Wednesday.

In the evening, he spoke to his father, Harry Redknapp, the manager of West Ham United, about football and watched Manchester United's Champions' League game against FC Kosice.

The point is not that Redknapp is a one-dimensional man. If anything, the opposite is true. Young, with a face that launched a thousand teen-magazine cover stories and shot him to the top of countless polls on the sexiest footballers, he has remained refreshingly unaffected by his fame, considerate to his fans, unflinchingly loyal to his family and his girlfriend, the pop star, Louise, and amusing, unassuming lunchtime company.

The point is that Redknapp cares about football and most of all that he cares about Liverpool and about his own performance. It should not have to be made, especially about someone like him who oozes conscientiousness and honesty.

But when things go wrong at Liverpool, the critics dust off the Spice Boys headlines, lump him in with Steve McManaman, Robbie Fowler and Jason McAteer — who were all, incidentally, at the training ground on their day off, too — and accuse them of leaving their passion for the club on the dance floor or the catwalk. It is a convenient line that has long since lost all relevance, but it is so much easier to criticise them than a nice man such as Roy Evans.

Their 1-0 defeat at home to Barnsley last Saturday, the biggest FA Carling Premiership shock of the season, unleashed another tide of criticism, more talk of an Anfield crisis and, most of all, the allegation that the supposed arrogance and nonchalance of some of the players amounts to a betrayal of their manager. Alan Hansen, their former central defender, became the latest in a long line of columnists to savage the team and question the commitment of the players. Redknapp and Liverpool have the perfect opportunity to ram those comments back down the throats of their critics when they take on Arsenal at Highbury tomorrow in one of the day's two mouth-watering matches.

Next Saturday, they play United at Anfield. Good results in both games and they will be right back in the championship reckoning. If that happens, maybe then people will start to believe that they care.

"It amazes me really that people still seem to think that we can lose and somehow not be affected by it," Redknapp said. "We probably haven't helped ourselves in the past but I don't know what people expect or what people want from you. We have got beaten against Barnsley but we worked hard and it just did not happen for us on the day. You do have those days. It happens to all teams.

"I have never seen the lads as upset about it after the game. I am usually quite relaxed, quite laid-back about things in general but some of the fans were having a little go when we were coming off and I lost my head and had a go back and that is unlike me. But it hurt. It was not really meant as anything but I was upset and I saw sombody shouting and hollering and I had a go back. I do not know what people want because in terms of effort we give everything we can.

"I mean, we hate losing. I know we have got this reputation but it is the biggest load of rubbish ever. When we lose, it knocks me for six. I bring it home with me. It upsets my whole week. My whole week revolves around how we get on. Some people say they can't believe how much I let it worry me. It affects the whole tone of training, the whole mood around the club. If you win on Saturday, you can't wait to go in on Monday because everybody will be buzzing but when you get beat, it is awful.

"Because of the talent we have got, people see that and they cannot believe how easily we have thrown it away in the past. I have to hold my hands up because we have done. Last year we were so near but yet so far. We ended up finishing fourth, which was a joke because at worst we should have been second and even that is not good enough for Liverpool.

"We do get things thrown at us but I do think people are too quick to jump on our backs but that will never change until we go and win the league and prove to people that we care. It hurts, but I feel like I have said that until I am blue in the face.

"As long as I know myself that I am doing everything I can to make me a better player and work hard on a Saturday, then that is all that matters. The people that say all these things, they don't know me and they don't know the other lads. They just think they know you and I think there may be a hint of jealousy with some of the people who say those things. I honestly believe that we are not far away from getting it right.

"We are all in it together with the gaffer and the rest of the staff. We missed Paul Ince and Robbie against Barnsley. Being the genius that he is, Robbie always gets on the end of things in games like that. We are not far away from United really, but if we get one bad result then suddenly it's all gloom and doom and people saying we are rubbish again."

Redknapp, who is personable and as down to earth as his father, has been at Anfield for almost seven years now after Kenny Dalglish signed him from Bournemouth for £350,000 when he was 17. Gradually, he has matured into one of the best passers of the ball in the Premiership, a fact acknowledged by Hoddle, who has made no secret of his desire to use him in the role of sweeper because of his ability to hit long, searching passes.

He has been capped eight times for his country, including the game against Scotland in the European championship that he transformed when Venables introduced him as a substitute. An injury later in that game and another last summer at Old Trafford in the international against South Africa have restricted his England appearances, but he is fully fit again now and back near the top of his form. Earlier this month, Hoddle invited him to train with the England squad, something commonly seen as a precursor to a full recall and a chance to stake his claim for a place in the World Cup squad of 22.

Maybe then, if it has not happened already, people will rush to accept the reality that he is the genuine article. "Football is my life," he said. "It always has been. I speak to my Dad every day, maybe twice a day, without fail and 99.9 per cent of the conversation is about football. Some people might think that's shallow but it's always been my life and nothing else interests me. That is the way it is."

Everton fans vent fury at Johnson

By David Maddock

AT THE Everton training ground yesterday, a handful of schoolchildren and a distinctly bored-looking mongrel constituted the sum total of interest in the club that lies bottom of the FA Carling Premiership. How different it will be this afternoon.

Merseyside Police have been given a warning that thousands of Everton supporters are planning a mass demonstration after the match at Goodison Park with Tottenham Hotspur. Hundreds of officers have been drafted in and a cordon of stewards will be thrown around the ground.

The target for what will undoubtedly be a torrent of abuse, should Everton lose, is Peter Johnson, the Everton chairman. The supporters are angry that he has failed to put any money into the club, bar his original investment when purchasing control from Lady Granchester, of the Moores family.

More than 20,000 leaflets will be distributed before the game, urging supporters to protest against Johnson's reign. The text will demand that Johnson "get out his chequebook, or get out".

It is against this grim backdrop that Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, must prepare his side for a game that already looks significant in the struggle to avoid relegation from the Premiership. Everton's tenure in the top division has continued uninterrupted for 43 years and, despite the fears of supporters, the manager remains confident that the run will not be broken this season. "I can understand the frustration of the fans but we have no doubts and we are not even thinking about relegation," he said. "We are in a difficult position, but we have played three away games, two against teams in the top three in the country, and there has been little to choose between us."

Kendall, centre, is facing growing unrest among Everton supporters

Whilst much morbid interest will be centred on Goodison Park this afternoon, Blackburn Rovers' visit to Old Trafford tomorrow has captured the imagination of the football-viewing public.

According to Roy Hodgson, the Blackburn manager, it is a chance for his squad not only to prove their championship credentials, but to settle a few old scores in the process.

"There are players here who won the title three seasons ago who deserve far more credit for their role in that incredible success than they have received," he said. "They have been branded one season wonders and, more hurtfully, a one-man team. Well, now that man [Alan Shearer] has gone, it is their chance to show it is rubbish."

Hodgson continued the regeneration of Blackburn yesterday by securing Chris Sutton, his top goalscorer, on a new five-year contract that will take his wages to £20,000 a week.

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, received some bad news yesterday when he learnt that his club will be refused a work permit for Brad Friedel, the United States international goalkeeper. Friedel has not played enough matches for his country to justify clearance by the Department for Education and Employment.

Gullit goes to school with three Dutch masters

By Matt Dickinson

EXPECT Total Football from Chelsea today. Nothing else will do after Ruud Gullit played host at the club's training ground this week to one of the greatest think-tanks that can ever have been assembled, opening the doors to three legends of the Holland team, Frank Rijkaard, Ronald Koeman and Johann Neeskens.

That awesomely talented trio have joined their compatriot in pursuit of a coaching certificate from the Dutch Football Association and they have been sitting their latest test under the watchful eye of assessors, and dumbstruck fans, at Stamford Bridge this week.

"The three of them were at the Everton game and we came in the next day from 9am to 6pm to discuss the good points, weaknesses, solutions, everything," Gullit, who was even filmed during his press conference yesterday by the eagle-eyed observers, said.

"I want to get the Dutch badge because I know I still have much to learn about this job. I fell into it and until now I have been getting by on intuition.

"The Dutch badge is very highly regarded across the world. It means you can work anywhere you want. The great thing about it is that it allows everyone to have their opinions on how to play the game.

"It is about finding solutions to different problems. From what I understand, to get the badge in England you have to play in a certain way."

Chelsea supporters are understandably anxious that Gullit's pursuit of further education will pave the way for him to move abroad, if not to his former club, AC Milan, who are going through upheaval, then to Holland as manager of the national team.

Koeman, now assistant to the international team along with Neeskens, did little to end that speculation when he said: "Ruud taking the certificate would mean he could coach the national team and it is certainly a possibility. He is a great name around the world already but even he would admit he can learn more about the game. That is why we all take this badge."

Gullit emphasised, however, that he could not be more content and claimed that there was no rush to sign a new contract at Stamford Bridge, even though his runs out next year. "I am fully dedicated to working at Chelsea," he said. "The opportunity came up to take the qualification and it is good for the club as well that I do it."

Gullit is being offered a new three-year contract by Chelsea.

Penalties that go on and on and . . .

Off the line by Russell Kempson

LOVE 'em or hate 'em, penalty shoot-outs play an increasingly decisive role in the congested fixture lists of modern-day football. Sometimes, they are concluded in a trice; sometimes, they go on for ever — as the youngsters of Bristol Rovers and Swindon Town will testify. In their first-round replay in *The Times* FA Youth Cup on Thursday, which had ended in a 0-0 draw after extra time, Rovers eventually went through 10-9 on penalties. It took 24 attempts to achieve the result.

However, it is not a record. In the first qualifying round of the FA Cup this season, after two 2-2 draws, Marlow defeated Littlehampton 11-10 on spot kicks when Mark Howells, the Littlehampton goalkeeper, shot wide — the first miss after 21 successes. It equalled Aldershot's 11-10 triumph against Fulham, in the Freight Rover Trophy in 1987, and North Korea's 11-10 win against Hong Kong, in the Asian Cup in 1975, but was still some way short of the world best. In Argentina in 1988, Argentinos Juniors beat Racing Club 20-19.

Taking flight

Yeovil Town supporters and club officials have decided to let the plane take the strain when they make the long trek to Gateshead for a Vauxhall Conference fixture this afternoon. They have chartered a flight to carry their 104-strong party from Bournemouth to Newcastle, travelling in relative comfort and arriving in good time for kick-off. No such jet-setting for the Yeovil players: they travelled by coach.

Something fishy

Bucharest's 22-storey Inter-Continental Hotel offers a fine view over the Romanian capital, as several members of the Aston Villa party discovered when they stayed there before Villa's Uefa Cup third-round tie against Steaua Bucharest on Tuesday.

Had the mist not been so persistent, they could have seen even farther and perhaps caught a glimpse of the magnificent palace built by Nicolae Ceausescu, the former Romanian dictator. The hotel's rooftop restaurant offers fine food, too, especially sturgeon, in many guises, and zander. However, few diners were tempted to sample the grilled carp, just in case. On the menu, the middle two letters of the fish had been printed the wrong way round.

Name of the day

Trabzonspor, of Turkey, have released two players after a series of poor league performances. Davor Vugrinec, the Croatian forward, has been unable to find a new club, but, somewhat strangely, his former team-mate has. Excelsior Mouscron, of Belgium, have opened talks with the gloriously named striker from Cameroon, Jean-Jacques Misse Misse.

STRANGE BUT TRUE: London has more professional football clubs than any city except Buenos Aires.

Robson resists Shevchenko chase

By Russell Kempson

Nationwide

ANDREI SHEVCHENKO, the Ukraine and Dynamo Kiev striker, is one of the most sought-after players in the world. His displays in the European Cup Champions' League, in which he has scored five goals in five matches, have attracted several wealthy suitors, Manchester United and Newcastle United included.

Middlesbrough, though, have dropped out of the race. Bryan Robson, the manager, has watched Shevchenko play and has the funds readily available for the ridiculous, yet predictable, £12 million asking price, his disposal of players last summer having realised £21 million.

Robson, though, is not interested; Shevchenko is not his type. "He's too similar to the players who are already here," Viv Anderson, Robson's assistant, said yesterday. "He is a name on our list and we've watched him. Bryan has gone to see him play, but we won't be following it up now."

Instead, Middlesbrough have re-signed Jaime Moreno, their former Bolivian striker, on loan until Christmas. He scored 20 goals in 26 games for DC United in the United States and could move permanently to the Riverside Stadium in the new year. He is unlikely to feature in Middlesbrough's home game against West Bromwich Albion in the Nationwide League first division this afternoon.

At the opposite end of the financial spectrum, Oxford United yesterday sold Bobby Ford, 23, their midfield player, to Sheffield United for £400,000, giving Oxford a ray of hope as they attempt to sort out debts of £10 million and losses of £800,000 a season.

"What we have got to look at is the club going on," Denis Smith, the Oxford manager, said. "The club is far more important than any one individual. Bobby moving has kept the club going. He has gone to a bigger club. Whether they are a better club, I don't know, but they are going for promotion and we wish him well.

"This transfer makes life a lot easier for us all. We can get paid, which is a nice way to live your life when you are working." Ford made 115 League appearances for Oxford, scoring seven goals.

In contrast, Wrexham, the second division club, have revealed that Brian Flynn, the manager, and other members of staff will share bonuses of almost £120,000 this year. Pryce Griffiths, the Wrexham chairman, told the club's annual meeting that it was the first time the incentive scheme, introduced four years ago, had produced such a healthy figure because Wrexham made a pre-tax profit of £480,000 last season.

Fulham, apparently wallowing in the financial largesse of Mohamed Al Fayed, the Craven Cottage benefactor, will not be able to field their latest signings — Alan Neilson, Paul Trollope and Steve McAnespie — against Preston North End at Deepdale today.

The registrations of the trio, who moved for a combined fee of almost £2 million, were received too late by the Football League yesterday.

The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Tom Whitelaw, of Bearsden in Scotland

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

MANCHESTER UNITED v BLACKBURN ROVERS

Tomorrow, 3.0 (sold out)

Oliver Holt

Roy Hodgson, the Blackburn Rovers manager, was a watching admirer at Old Trafford last Thursday, when Manchester United eased through to the quarter-finals of the Champions' League. Yesterday, as the slanting rain beat against the windows of the Blackburn training headquarters, near Clitheroe, he was busy finalising plans to dethrone them.

Buoyed by the news that Chris Sutton, the team's leading striker, has signed a contract to stay at the club until 2003, Hodgson was generous in his praise of Alex Ferguson, the United manager, but optimistic that Blackburn could beat their Lancashire rivals in Manchester tomorrow and leap over them to the top of the FA Carling Premiership.

Hodgson will be without Colin Hendry, the stalwart central defender, who trudged out of training yesterday, but Rovers have maintained their early-season form, confounding those who said that their challenge would fade when injuries began to bite.

"United are a marvellous team," Hodgson said. "A lot of the younger ones have come up through the ranks together. But I still believe we can beat them."

Against FC Kosice, a strolling United looked as if they were playing well within themselves, preserving some of their energies for the match tomorrow, one of the dozen or so in the Premiership for which they know they must be at their best. It could have a bearing on the destination of the title.

United will be deprived of Paul Scholes, their most influential and inspired player in recent games. Scholes ran the game for them against Kosice and his verve, his vision and his precise passing are bound to be missed, even by a club with such vast resources.

Ferguson has played Ronnie Johnsen in recent games so that he would be ready to replace Scholes when the suspension bit. Johnsen took the stage in central defence last Thursday, but he is likely to be pushed into central midfield alongside Nicky Butt tomorrow with Henning Berg regaining his place next to Gary *Pallister.*

United are on fire at the moment, oozing with confidence and unshakeable self-belief that has been boosted even further by their Champions' League success.

The last time they played a club one place below them, Arsenal, they lost. This time, it would be foolish to bet against them, although the absence of *Scholes may cost them victory.*

MANCHESTER UNITED (probable; 4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, H Berg, G Pallister, P Neville — D Beckham, R Johnsen, N Butt, R Giggs — E Sheringham, A Cole.
BLACKBURN ROVERS (probable, 4-4-2): T Flowers — P Valery, S Henchoz, C Coleman, J Kenna — S Ripley, T Sherwood, G Flitcroft, W McKinlay — C Sutton, K Gallacher
Referee: A Wilkie

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Highlights on Sky Sports, 12.30am.
■ PREDICTION: Blackburn to halt United's rampage.

CLIVE BRUNSKILL / ALLSPORT

RICHARD PELHAM

Saintly progress: Gary Lineker played for Everton and Spurs during his pre-television career — bet he wouldn't join them now

FIRST 11 ELEVEN

THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS

Everton v Spurs at Goodison Park today brings together two once undisputed members of the Big Five who have fallen on hard times. Here are some reminders that nobody is immune from the dreaded words "They used to be a big club, you know."

1. Wanderers
Five of the first seven FA Cups, but unheard of since they scratched from a tie against Bart's Hospital in 1881-82
2. Queen's Park
Ten Scottish Cups in 20 years — all before the turn of the century
3. Preston North End
"Proud" won the first two Football League championships. Oh, and Tom Finney played for them as well
4. Huddersfield Town
The first team to complete a championship hat-trick under Herbert Chapman. Sadly not as successful after he left for Highbury
5. Blackpool
Matthews, Mortensen in 1953 .. the tower and sticks of rock now
6. Sunderland
Almost did the Double in 1913 as one of six championships, reliant on Bob Stokoe's hat for highlights since
7. Wolves
Three titles in the 1950s, just Bull these days
8. Portsmouth
Successive championships after the war — sunk without trace now
9. Burnley
Vintage claret in the 50s and 60s. Vin Ordinaire these days
10. Manchester City
Four trophies in three seasons with a centre forward called Lee. Wonder what happened to him?
11. Liverpool.
Only joking, lads

Compiled by Richard Whitehead

BARNSLEY v LEEDS UNITED

Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Keith Pike

A rare shaft of light in a season of gloom or a platform on which to build an unlikely escape route? Most probably the former, but Barnsley's victory over Liverpool last week has instilled hope where little appeared to exist.

Has Danny Wilson, the manager, stumbled upon the secret of eternal FA Carling Premiership life? The truth is less fanciful. "We didn't want to get hammered any more," Neil Redfearn, their midfield player, explained yesterday. "Now it is all about the next game."

Victory over Leeds United today could lift Barnsley out of the bottom three. With Kewell unavailable and Hopkin suspended, this may not be a bad time to be playing their Yorkshire rivals and a sell-out crowd at Oakwell will be willing them on. If public sympathy counts for anything, they should prosper.

Everyone loves an underdog, but even more so when they possess the type of honesty that Andy Liddell displayed at Anfield.

His refusal to go to ground under James's illegal challenge was rewarded instantly when his cross set up Ward's winner, and may prove to be one of the most significant — as well as praiseworthy — moments of the season.

BARNSLEY (possible; 4-4-2) L Leese — N Eaden, A de Zeeuw, P Markstedt, D Barnard — M Bullock, E Tinkler, N Redfearn, A Moses — A Liddell, A Ward
LEEDS UNITED (possible, 4-4-2): N Martyn — G Halle, D Wetherall, L Radebe, D Robertson — G Kelly, L Bowyer, A I Haaland, B Ribeiro — J F Hasselbaink, R Wallace
Referee: M Reed.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Barnsley revival to continue with a point.

BOLTON WANDERERS v WIMBLEDON

Today, 3.0

Mark Hodkinson

The unlikely refrain of *Molly Malone* could well ring out *across the Reebok* Stadium today as Bolton Wanderers supporters bait their FA Carling Premiership visitors. Dublin might be a fair city where the girls are so pretty, but the Wimbledon fans prefer Merton, South London.

Dean Holdsworth, the sage that he is, has already checked out of his hotel. The former Wimbledon player has heard that a coachload of nefarious jokers armed with eggs, scissors and ghetto-blasters plan to meet him. When the two teams met in the Coca-Cola Cup earlier this season, the Wimbledon squad pelted Holdsworth's car with eggs. "It was a strange experience," he mumbled nervously. "I've heard they are going to take my clothes this time."

Alan Kimble has recovered from a hamstring injury and Robbie Earle is back from international duty with Jamaica. Bolton have Sellars in their squad after his three-match suspension.

Players are leaving the Reebok at some rate. After John *McGinlay's defection to Bradford* City, Steve McAnespie has joined Fulham for £100,000 and Simon Coleman looks sure to join Carlisle United. Peter Beardsley, who played in the reserves this week, is reportedly unsettled.

BOLTON WANDERERS (probable; 4-4-2): K Branagan — G Bergsson, A Todd, M Fish, M Whitlow — J Pollock, A Thompson, P Frandsen, M Johansen — D Holdsworth, N Blake.
WIMBLEDON (probable, 4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, D Blackwell, C Perry, B Thatcher — M Hughes, N Ardley, R Earle, V Jones — C Cort, M Gayle
Referee: J Winter.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Low-scoring draw.

COVENTRY CITY v LEICESTER CITY

Today, 3.0

Russell Kempson

David Burrows, the Coventry left back, could be excused for having a nightmare this afternoon after a fraught few days. On Thursday he was going to Sheffield Wednesday, to be reunited with Ron Atkinson; yesterday, he wasn't.

Mark Pembridge, the other 50 per cent of the exchange deal, was unable to agree the personal terms of being sent to Coventry and the deal thus foundered. It could be resurrected next week but Burrows must forget all about lucrative signing-on fees for at least 90 more minutes as Leicester City pay a visit.

Hard to get too excited about this Midlands shindig, especially as Leicester have gone off the boil since attaining a nosebleeding third place in the Premiership two months ago. Martin O'Neill's scrappers have won only once in six league outings and need to rediscover the early-season spirit that produced victories against Aston Villa and Liverpool and draws with Manchester United and Arsenal.

Coventry have won only once in nine outings and are perhaps drifting towards another end-of-term dogfight. Neil Lennon almost moved to Highfield Road from Crewe Alexandra for a fee of £750,000 two years ago but, wisely, chose Filbert Street instead. "I've no regrets," he said.

COVENTRY CITY (probable, 4-4-2): S Ogrizovic — R Nilsson, R Shaw, G Breen, D Burrows — P Telfer, G McAllister, P Williams, M Hall — D Huckerby, D Dublin
LEICESTER CITY (probable: 3-5-2), K Keller — S Prior, M Elliott, S Walsh — P Kaamark, M Izzet, N Lennon, S Wilson, S Guppy — S Claridge, I Marshall
Referee: M Bodenham.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Low-scoring draw.

CRYSTAL PALACE v NEWCASTLE UNITED

Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Brian Glanville

Newcastle United deserve to be pitied rather than censured. How can a team hope to compete at top level after losing Alan Shearer and Faustino Asprilla, two of the game's finest strikers?

Today, for the FA Carling Premiership match against Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park, they hope to welcome back the influential Rob Lee, *who missed the* midweek match in Barcelona because of a virus, but Darren Peacock, who hurt an ankle in the Nou Camp, will not play.

Palace, as Steve Coppell, their manager, admits, are far less potent at home than away. They *seem likely to be without their* Italians, Lombardo and Padovano (who hurt his thigh away to Tottenham Hotspur on Monday), but Neil Shipperley and Bruce Dyer are in penetrating form, and the three-man defence is working well, while Kevin Miller, in goal, made an outstanding save at White Hart Lane.

On the flanks, Edworthy and Gordon are attacking with pace and zest, while Paul Warhurst has strengthened the defence.

Sooner or later, Palace will have to win at home and a depleted Newcastle could give them their chance. If Padovano does not make the cut, they will presumably use two strikers.

CRYSTAL PALACE (probable; 3-5-2) K Miller — A Linighan, P Warhurst, H Hreidarsson — M Edworthy, S Rodger, A Roberts, C Veart, D Gordon — B Dyer, N Shipperley
NEWCASTLE UNITED (probable: 4-4-2): S Hislop — A Pistone, S Pearce, P Albert, J Beresford — S Watson, D Batty, R Lee, J D Tomasson — J Barnes, T Ketsbaia.
Referee: M Riley

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.
■ PREDICTION: A draw.

CHELSEA v DERBY COUNTY

Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Matt Dickinson

Chelsea joint-top of the league for the first time since 1978? Ruud Gullit, the player-manager, seemed unaware of the statistic, or even the possibility, yesterday. He was, however, less than happy that Chelsea's FA Carling Premiership midweek win over Everton had been described as fortunate. "If we do not play so good and win, *everyone says we are lucky,*" the Dutchman said. "If Manchester United do it, everyone calls them clever. Luck does not come just by sitting on your chair and waiting to win the lottery. You have to work hard for it."

Chelsea almost certainly will have to do so today against Jim Smith's Derby County side, sixth in the Premiership and likely to be bolstered by the return of Igor Stimac, the captain, and Robin van der Laan from injury.

For Chelsea, Steve Clarke may be absent with a calf injury, but Frank Leboeuf is expected to have recovered from a groin problem. The Chelsea back four will have to be at their most watchful against a side who have scored six goals in their past two Premiership games, with Paulo Wanchope probably the centre of attention.

Gullit was in dismissive mood when it came to the Costa Rican. "You see players that have moments in a season when everything is going well for them," he said. "You can only really judge over the whole campaign."

Much the same can be said of Chelsea, even if they do draw level with Manchester United today. Not that Gullit seemed bothered. "It is still too early for us. For me it is not important whether we are in first or third place. I just want to be in the top five for the next few months. That is when it gets really important."

CHELSEA (probable: 4-4-2): E de Goey — B Lambourde, F Leboeuf, M Duberry, C Babayaro — D Petrescu, R Di Matteo, D Wise, J Morris — M Hughes, G Zola.
DERBY COUNTY (4-3-3) M Poom — C Powell, I Stimac, R van der Laan, C Dailly — M Solis, S Eranio, D Powell — P Wanchope, F Baiano, D Sturridge.
Referee: P Durkin

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, BBC1 10.50pm, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Chelsea to win by the odd goal

ON MONDAY

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports

EVERTON v TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Today, 3.0

David Maddock

A lost cat recently came home on Merseyside after going missing for seven years — and keeled over and died.

One suspects that a similar, albeit metaphorical, fate awaits Howard Kendall, the Everton manager. Bottom of the table, barely a bean for new players and a squad so demoralised — he should never have gone back.

A real sense of pessimism has settled over Everton this season. Desperate supporters are preparing a justice campaign, with T-shirts bearing the plea: "Free the Goodison 30,000". Maybe some should read: "Slaven Bilic is innocent". Sent off again in midweek, this most important of players in the fight for FA Carling Premiership survival will serve his second ban within the space of a month.

Tottenham Hotspur have similar problems and one suspects that they will not be eased by the arrival of Christian Gross as manager. Some of the players at White Hart Lane are unlikely to take kindly to being told they are unfit, both physically and spiritually.

Expect a few of the more saleable ones to jump ship during the next few months, with David Ginola and Sol Campbell leading the charge.

EVERTON (probable; 5-3-2): N Southall — T Thomas, C Tiler, S Bilic, C Short, A Hinchcliffe — M Ward, D Williamson, G Speed — D Ferguson, D Cadamarteri.
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (probable; 4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, R Vega, S Campbell, A Sinton — D Anderton, S Clemence, A Nielsen, D Ginola — L Ferdinand, S Iversen.
Referee: P Jones.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Possibly the most nervous draw in the history of football.

SOUTHAMPTON v SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Peter Robinson

Whoever writes Ron Atkinson's scripts should, in all fairness, make his talents more *widely available.* As it is, Atkinson swaggers through life from one high to the next, his troughs overlooked. Take last Saturday, his return to Sheffield Wednesday: a win was obligatory, so Arsenal, wannabe champions, sent some reserves along to make up the chorus line. Who scored the goals? Who cares? There was only one star of the show.

It is a show that now rolls into humbler surroundings and, strangely, a truer test of the job awaiting Atkinson. Southampton may have lost to Chelsea's reserves in the Coca-Cola Cup, but, on their day, they are not a bad side. On an off day, they can be awful, but this is a home game and they are, for once, at full strength, with Ostenstad a likely substitute after recovering from ankle surgery. He is unlikely to replace Hirst, who has something of a point to prove to the club that sold him to Southampton for £2 million earlier this season.

Wednesday had hoped to field Burrows, the Coventry City left back, *but Pembridge failed to* agree terms to move in the opposite direction so the transfer stalled. Pembridge is thus available today, although Atkinson may prefer Briscoe, who shows no sign of leaving, instead.

SOUTHAMPTON (probable; 4-3-1-2): P Jones — J Dodd, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, F Benali — M Oakley, C Palmer, K Richardson — M Le Tissier — K Davies, D Hirst.
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (probable; 4-4-2): K Pressman — I Nolan, D Walker, J Newsome, L Briscoe — G Whittingham, J Magilton, P Atherton, P Rudi — P di Canio, A Booth.
Referee: S Dunn

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Home win.

WEST HAM UNITED v ASTON VILLA

Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Ivo Tennant

After West Ham United's defeat at Elland Road last Sunday, Harry Redknapp, the manager, declared that his team were "all singing and dancing and looking forward to a long journey home".

How, then, will they feel if they defeat Aston Villa in their FA Carling Premiership match at Upton Park today and have only a short trip back to their families? Perhaps it would be best not to inquire.

West Ham, of course, are a decidedly different proposition at home — at least when Berkovic is concentrating on his impressive game. Kitson, whom Hartson, in particular, has missed, is close to regaining full fitness and could be included among the substitutes.

Aston Villa, beaten by Steaua Bucharest in the Uefa Cup in midweek, will still be without Taylor, who is suspended for three matches, but Curcic may return to the squad. Indeed, on account of injuries, Brian Little, now into his fourth year as their manager, will be selecting his team from a squad of 17 players.

Little will be pleased greatly by news that Southgate, who was expected to be out of action for a month because of an injury sustained during England's friendly with Cameroon, could be fit for the club's return fixture against Steaua on December 9.

WEST HAM UNITED (probable; 4-3-1-2): L Miklosko — T Breacker, S Potts, I Pearce, D Unsworth — F Lampard, S Lomas, A Impey — E Berkovic — S Abou, J Hartson
ASTON VILLA (possible; 3-4-1-2): M Oakes — U Ehiogu, S Staunton, R Scimeca — G Charles, F Nelson, M Draper, A Wright — D Yorke — S Collymore, S Milosevic.
Referee: P Alcock.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: A draw.

ARSENAL v LIVERPOOL

Tomorrow, 4.0 (sold out)

Rob Hughes

Can this still be *November*, with Arsenal and Liverpool already stretched to breaking-point, struggling to stay the FA Carling Premiership pace with Manchester United?

Liverpool's visits to Highbury are usually declarations of championship intent. Arsenal have scored only twice, and gained a solitary point, in six *league matches against them.* However, Bergkamp and Wright would scarcely decline such gifts as the goal Berger handed Barnsley last Saturday.

Liverpool no longer trust their defence, hence a trip by Roy Evans, the manager, to Norway *last Thursday to see Erik Hoftun*, 28, the disciplined left-sided defender, and Vegard Heggam, 22, the right back, combine as Rosenborg blocked out Real Madrid. Leeds United are also interested in Hoftun.

Evans, meanwhile, rues the indiscipline that deprives Liverpool of Ince's midfield bite and *Fowler's finish.* Both are suspended, but tell Arsenal about accumulated suspensions! Arsenal have incurred more than 100 yellow cards in the past 13 months. Bould and Grimandi are under suspension, although Bergkamp returns, as does Petit. Injuries to Vieira and Parlour also bedevil Arsenal's continuity.

ARSENAL (possible; 4-4-2), D Seaman — L Dixon, M Keown, A Adams, N Winterburn — S Hughes, D Platt, E Petit, M Overmars — I Wright, D Bergkamp
LIVERPOOL (possible, 4-4-2): D James — J McAteer, B T Kvarme, D Matteo, S I Bjornebye — S McManaman, P Berger, J Redknapp, O Leonhardsen — M Owen, K Riedle.
Referee: G Poll.

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 3pm.
■ PREDICTION: A draw, with goals *please.*

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

To ignore Ginola's ambition would be a Gross mistake

FRANK LEBOEUF

I am not sure that David Ginola and Christian Gross had even shaken hands at Tottenham Hotspur before everyone was assuming that David would be the first casualty of the new regime. If Gross is even half the coach that he is reputed to be, he will not be so hasty in his judgment.

I should declare an interest. David and I spent two years together at Toulon as teenagers and he is one of my best friends. It is strange to think that we have ended up in the FA Carling Premiership together a decade later because, at that time, his career was about to take off while mine almost came to a very premature end, the club releasing me as a 19-year-old, after which I spent two years out of the game.

Football is the last topic of conversation when we socialise in London these days, but I know enough about the situation at Spurs to say that David, contrary to widespread belief, will not be dreading Gross's arrival.

Gross's strengths seem typical of Germanic coaches, with discipline, fitness and organisation his key points. He reminds me of the German manager we used to have at Strasbourg, who made us train in tracksuits from head to toe, even in the heat of summer. He would not even let us unzip the tops! One day, our goalkeeper fainted through dehydration — but that coach led us to promotion and, when you are winning games, you tolerate anything.

It will be the same for the Spurs players and David will be as happy as anyone to work if it changes the club's fortunes. That may surprise those people who have a fixed idea of him, but he is one of those players whom people love to talk about without really knowing the man, or the facts.

I know it has hurt him not to be in the international squad and he does care passionately about his football. Anyone who does not believe that should have seen us in training at Toulon all those years ago. We were supposed to be best friends, but we almost had a fight one day over a hard tackle, spending the rest of the game looking for revenge. Luckily, we have made up since.

■ Happy to be in shadows

The pressure on gifted players to perform every week is just the same at Chelsea, particularly for someone like Gianfranco Zola. I spoke to him after the game against Everton on Wednesday and he was saying that he felt great in the warm-up and the start of the game. Then, without warning, after 25 minutes he just felt that power drain out of him.

That happens to all of us and you cannot put your finger on it. You just have to keep trying your hardest and hope the feeling comes back. That is exactly what Franco did and we ended up with a 2-0 win on Wednesday, despite not playing as well as we can.

It has lifted us to third in the table, so these are exciting times for us all, although you can be sure there will no talk of championships at Stamford Bridge, even if we beat Derby County today and go level on points with Manchester United. No one is mentioning us as genuine title challengers and we are more than happy with that situation. Let everyone concentrate on United, Arsenal and Liverpool and leave us in peace. That is how we like it.

■ Dutch masterclass

It is easy to forget that professional players are also still football supporters at heart and I felt like rushing to find an autograph book at the training ground this week. Outside with our manager, Ruud Gullit, were Frank Rijkaard, Ronald Koeman and Johann Neeskens, all supervising a youth team training session. It is hard to think of a more talented quartet and the young guys must have thought they had died and gone to heaven. Neeskens, in particular, was a boyhood hero of mine. The way he struck the ball, sometimes even seeming to have his eyes closed, made an impact on me even as a six-year-old watching the 1974 World Cup.

The four of them are taking their Dutch coaching certificate and their sessions at Chelsea were part of that programme. Luckily, they had not brought their boots, because they looked like they could have put together a mean five-a-side team, with their compatriot, De Goey, in goal.

■ Platini injustice

I see there has been a poll for an International Hall of Fame and I was amazed to see Michel Platini not only excluded from the top five but way down in eighteenth place. It is a scandal!

For me, there are three greats — Pelé, Maradona and Platini. After that, there are the rest. When Juventus fans voted last season for the best player to have worn the black-and-white shirt, Platini was comfortably the winner — and there have been quite a few stars through that particular club.

I remember when he played his testimonial seven or eight years ago and, at the end of the game, Maradona rushed up to him to change shirts. You do not get much higher respect than that. Then there was the time that he played at Wembley just at the end of his career and came off shortly before the end of the game to a standing ovation. A Frenchman clapped off at the home of English football? That is indeed a rare accolade!

People seem to have forgotten just how good he was. We all have bias towards our own countrymen, but I cannot believe Platini was not ranked higher. Anyone care to disagree?

■ Family comes first

Apologies for finishing on a downbeat note, but I could not let this column pass without a mention of the horrific massacre in Luxor recently. I had been hoping to take my family to Egypt on holiday in the near future and had even been reading extensively about the country's past in readiness.

I find it a fascinating place, but the ancient words of Rameses about everyone being equal and giving their best for the good of the country seem empty now. Like Israel, where I have been invited by friends but turned down the invitation because of worries about the safety of my children, Egypt is now a no-go area. How can we stop this barbarism?

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

(Last week's position in brackets)	Played	Points	Goal diff	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	Last 10 matches W-D-L	Current streak
1. MANCHESTER UTD (1)	15	31	+24	6	1	0	23	4	3	3	2	13	8	5-3-2	W1
2. BLACKBURN ROVERS (3)	15	30	+14	5	2	1	17	9	3	4	0	10	4	4-5-1	W2
3. CHELSEA (4)	15	28	+14	5	0	1	12	6	4	1	4	19	11	5-1-4	W1
4. ARSENAL (2)	15	27	+13	5	2	0	18	3	2	4	2	12	14	5-3-2	L1
5. LEEDS UTD (5)	15	26	+6	4	1	3	13	11	4	1	2	10	6	7-1-2	W3
6. DERBY COUNTY (8)	14	23	+8	5	2	0	17	5	2	0	5	11	15	5-2-3	W1
7. LEICESTER CITY (7)	15	23	+5	3	4	2	11	8	3	1	2	8	6	4-3-3	D1
8. LIVERPOOL (6)	14	22	+11	5	0	2	18	6	1	4	2	7	8	5-2-3	L1
9. NEWCASTLE UTD (10)	12	21	0	5	2	1	12	9	1	1	2	4	7	4-3-3	W1
10. CRYSTAL PALACE (12)	14	19	-1	0	3	3	4	9	5	1	2	10	6	3-4-3	W1
11. WIMBLEDON (9)	15	19	-2	2	2	5	10	14	3	2	1	8	6	4-2-4	L1
12. ASTON VILLA (15)	15	18	-6	3	1	3	8	12	2	2	4	7	9	4-3-3	W1
13. COVENTRY CITY (11)	15	17	-6	2	6	0	10	8	1	2	4	3	11	2-6-2	L1
14. SOUTHAMPTON (13)	15	16	-5	4	1	3	13	10	1	0	6	5	13	4-1-5	L1
15. WEST HAM UTD (14)	14	16	-6	4	0	1	10	4	1	1	7	8	20	3-0-7	L3
16. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (19)	15	15	-10	4	1	3	15	12	0	2	5	10	23	3-2-5	W2
17. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (16)	15	13	-11	3	2	3	7	8	0	2	5	4	14	1-3-6	L4
18. BOLTON WANDERERS (18)	14	13	-11	1	4	1	3	3	1	3	4	7	18	1-5-4	D1
19. BARNSLEY (20)	15	13	-28	2	1	4	6	15	2	0	6	6	25	2-1-7	W1
20. EVERTON (17)	15	12	-9	3	1	3	11	11	0	2	6	5	14	2-2-6	L4

ATTACK

Goals scored		Avge
1. Manchester Utd	36	2.40
2. Chelsea	31	2.07
3. Arsenal	30	2.00
4. Derby	28	2.00
5. Blackburn	27	1.80
6. Liverpool	25	1.79
7. Sheffield Wed	25	1.67
8. Leeds	23	1.53
9. Newcastle	16	1.33
10. Leicester	19	1.27
11. West Ham	18	1.27
12. Southampton	18	1.20
=. Wimbledon	18	1.20
14. Everton	16	1.07
15. Aston Villa	15	1.00
16. Crystal Palace	14	1.00
17. Coventry	13	0.87
18. Barnsley	12	0.80
19. Tottenham	11	0.73
20. Bolton	10	0.71

SCORING TRENDS

Goals per half	1st	2nd
Arsenal	19	11
Aston Villa	6	9
Barnsley	7	5
Blackburn	20	7
Bolton	5	5
Chelsea	14	17
Coventry	6	7
Crystal Palace	7	7
Derby	13	15
Everton	6	10
Leeds Utd	14	9
Leicester	7	12
Liverpool	6	19
Manchester Utd	16	20
Newcastle	8	8
Sheffield Wed	12	13
Southampton	7	11
Tottenham	6	5
West Ham	4	14
Wimbledon	5	13

SCORERS

	Goals
Bergkamp (Arsenal)	10
Sutton (Blackburn)	10
Wright (Arsenal)	9
Baiano (Derby)	9
Cole (Manchester Utd)	8
Hartson (West Ham)	8
Carbone (Sheffield Wed)	7
Davies (Southampton)	7
Dublin (Coventry)	7
Gallacher (Blackburn)	7
Sheringham (Manchester Utd)	7
Wallace (Leeds)	7
Fowler (Liverpool)	6
Wanchope (Derby)	6
Barnes (Newcastle)	5
Berkovic (West Ham)	5
Cort (Wimbledon)	5
Di Canio (Sheffield Wed)	5
Marshall (Leicester)	5
Speed (Everton)	5

CAUTIONS

Cards issued	Yellow	Red
1. Everton	33	3
2. Arsenal	34	1
3. Bolton	30	3
4. Coventry	31	1
=. C Palace	31	1
=. Leeds Utd	31	1
7. Chelsea	28	3
8. West Ham	31	0
9. Derby	29	0
10. Sheffield Wed	26	2
11. Blackburn	25	2
12. Tottenham	24	1
13. Southampton	25	0
14. Manchester Utd*	24	0
=. Wimbledon	24	0
16. Liverpool	22	1
17. Barnsley	21	0
18. Leicester	18	1
19. Newcastle	17	1
20. Aston Villa	16	1

* red card downgraded to yellow

REFEREES

	P	Cards issued Yellow	Cards issued Red
1. S Dunn	5	25	1
2. G Willard	8	37	3
3. M Reed	5	23	1
4. D Elleray	7	32	1
5. P Durkin	10	42	2
6. P Alcock	7	30	0
7. G Ashby	8	31	1
8. M Bodenham	7	28	0
9. G Barber	8	30	1
10. J Winter	9	32	2
11. U Rennie	8	30	0
12. G Poll	9	31	3
13. N Barry	8	25	1
14. M Riley	7	20	1
15. P Jones	7	19	2
16. K Burge	8	23	0
17. D Gallagher	9	23	2
18. A Wilkie	8	20	1
19. S Lodge	9	19	0

DEFENCE

Goals conceded		Avge
1. Manchester Utd	12	0.80
2. Blackburn	13	0.87
3. Leicester	14	0.93
4. Liverpool	14	1.00
5. Crystal Palace	15	1.07
6. Arsenal	17	1.13
=. Chelsea	17	1.13
=. Leeds	17	1.13
9. Coventry	19	1.27
10. Newcastle	16	1.33
11. Wimbledon	20	1.33
12. Aston Villa	21	1.40
13. Derby	20	1.43
14. Tottenham	22	1.47
15. Bolton	21	1.50
16. Southampton	23	1.53
17. West Ham	24	1.60
18. Everton	25	1.79
19. Sheffield Wed	35	2.33
20. Barnsley	40	2.67

CLEAN SHEETS

	Clean sheet	Failed to score
Arsenal	6	4
Aston Villa	4	6
Barnsley	3	6
Blackburn	7	2
Bolton	5	6
Chelsea	6	2
Coventry	5	6
Crystal Palace	4	5
Derby	3	3
Everton	3	6
Leeds Utd	4	6
Leicester	6	4
Liverpool	4	2
Manchester Utd	8	3
Newcastle	4	1
Sheffield Wed	4	1
Southampton	3	6
Tottenham	4	9
West Ham	1	3
Wimbledon	2	4

HOME

Attendance	Average	% full
Arsenal	37,984	99%
Aston Villa	35,925	91%
Barnsley	18,419	100%
Blackburn	23,952	76%
Bolton	24,138	97%
Chelsea	32,745	98%
Coventry	18,926	80%
Crystal Palace	22,166	84%
Derby	24,293	81%
Everton	35,421	88%
Leeds	34,982	87%
Leicester	20,225	94%
Liverpool	36,891	97%
Manchester Utd	55,122	98%
Newcastle	36,708	100%
Sheffield Wed	25,726	65%
Southampton	15,165	99%
Tottenham	26,196	79%
West Ham	25,306	97%
Wimbledon	17,010	65%

AWAY

Attendance	P	Average
Arsenal	8	29,169
Aston Villa	8	27,530
Barnsley	8	29,791
Blackburn	7	25,062
Bolton	8	22,016
Chelsea	9	30,247
Coventry	7	27,227
Crystal Palace	8	26,915
Derby	7	28,350
Everton	8	28,356
Leeds	7	23,933
Leicester	6	29,875
Liverpool	7	28,906
Manchester Utd	8	30,892
Newcastle	4	29,990
Sheffield Wed	7	30,705
Southampton	7	31,393
Tottenham	7	28,220
West Ham	9	29,358
Wimbledon	6	27,771

INTERNET

FA Premiership clubs' official websites	
Arsenal	www.arsenal.co.uk
Aston Villa	www.astonvilla-fc.co.uk
Barnsley	www.yorkshire-web.co.uk/bfc/bfc.html
Blackburn	www.rovers.co.uk
Bolton	www.boltonwfc.co.uk
Chelsea	www.chelseafc.co.uk
Coventry	www.ccfc.co.uk
C Palace	www.cpfc.co.uk
Derby	—
Everton	evertonfc.merseyworld.com
Leeds	www.lufc.co.uk
Leicester	www.lcfc.co.uk
Liverpool	—
Man Utd	www.sky.co.uk/sports/manu
Newcastle	www.newcastle-utd.co.uk/nufc
Sheff Wed	—
Southampton	www.soton.ac.uk/~saints
Tottenham	www.spurs.co.uk
West Ham	www.westhamunited.co.uk
Wimbledon	—
FA Premiership	www.fa-carling.com

WEEKEND MATCHES

TODAY

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated * *denotes all-ticket*
Pools coupon numbers in brackets
In Premiership fixtures, † denotes sold out, otherwise seats available

FA Carling Premiership

(1) † Barnsley v Leeds
(2) Bolton v Wimbledon
(3) † Chelsea v Derby
(4) Coventry v Leicester
(5) *† Crystal Palace v Newcastle
(6) Everton v Tottenham
(7) † Southampton v Sheffield Wednesday
(8) † West Ham v Aston Villa

Nationwide League
First division

(9) Birmingham v Portsmouth
(10) Bradford v Norwich
(11) Huddersfield v Bury
(12) Ipswich v Nottingham Forest
(13) Middlesbrough v West Bromwich
(14) Oxford Utd v Port Vale
(15) Sheffield Utd v Crewe
(16) Stockport v Manchester City
(17) Stoke v Reading
(18) Sunderland v Tranmere
(19) Wolverhampton v Queens Park Rangers

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nottm Forest	19	11	5	3	31	16	38
West Bromwich	18	11	4	3	22	13	37
Middlesbrough	18	10	5	3	32	16	35
* Swindon	19	10	4	5	26	24	34
Sheffield Utd	17	8	8	1	25	14	32
* Charlton	18	8	5	5	35	26	29
Stockport	19	8	5	6	30	25	29
Sunderland	18	7	6	5	26	21	27
Port Vale	19	7	5	7	25	23	26
QPR	18	7	5	6	23	28	26
Wolverhampton	18	7	5	6	21	20	26
Stoke	18	7	5	6	21	21	26
Bradford	19	6	8	5	17	18	26
Birmingham	19	5	7	7	18	16	22
Norwich	18	6	4	8	16	27	22
Tranmere	18	6	3	9	26	25	21
Bury	19	4	9	6	21	27	21
Ipswich	17	4	7	6	20	21	19
Crewe	19	5	3	11	22	30	18
Man City	18	4	6	8	21	31	18
Reading	19	4	6	9	17	30	18
Oxford Utd	19	4	5	10	21	28	17
Portsmouth	17	3	5	9	20	28	14
Huddersfield	19	3	5	11	14	32	14

* does not include last night's match

Second division

(20) Brentford v Wrexham
(21) Bristol Rovers v Millwall
(22) Burnley v Northampton
(23) Carlisle v Bristol City
(24) Chesterfield v Southend
(25) Gillingham v Grimsby
(26) Plymouth v Oldham
(27) Preston v Fulham
(28) Walsall v Blackpool
(29) Watford v Wigan
(30) Wycombe v Bournemouth
(31) York v Luton

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	19	14	3	2	33	12	45
Bristol City	19	12	3	4	32	16	39
Millwall	18	9	5	4	26	19	32
Northampton	19	8	7	4	22	13	31
York	19	8	5	6	25	22	29
Chestrfield	19	7	8	4	21	17	29
Oldham	19	7	7	5	31	26	28
Blackpool	19	8	4	7	28	30	28
Bournemouth	19	7	7	5	22	20	28
Wrexham	18	7	6	5	25	21	27
Fulham	19	7	6	6	22	19	27
Gillingham	19	7	5	7	24	26	26
Bristol Rov	19	6	7	6	25	25	25
Preston	19	7	4	8	22	17	25
Grimsby	18	6	6	6	21	18	24
Wycombe	19	5	6	8	27	32	21
Plymouth	19	4	8	7	24	27	20
Walsall	18	5	5	8	19	23	20
Wigan	18	5	4	9	24	31	19
Southend	19	5	4	10	18	35	19
Burnley	19	3	8	8	20	27	17
Brentford	19	4	5	10	19	32	17
Luton	18	4	5	9	17	28	17
Carlisle	19	4	4	11	23	35	16

Third division

(32) Barnet v Darlington
(33) Cambridge Utd v Hartlepool
(34) Cardiff v Scarborough
(35) Chester v Exeter
(36) Hull v Doncaster
(37) Lincoln v Macclesfield
(38) Mansfield v Leyton Orient
(39) Notts County v Peterborough
(—) Rochdale v Torquay
(—) Rotherham v Colchester
(—) Scunthorpe v Brighton
(—) Shrewsbury v Swansea

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lincoln	19	10	6	3	20	14	36
Peterborough	19	9	8	2	36	17	35
Exeter	19	9	7	3	28	20	34
Notts County	19	9	7	3	26	19	34
Scunthorpe	19	9	6	4	28	22	33
Hartlepool	19	7	10	2	28	19	31
Chester	19	9	3	7	29	24	30
Barnet	19	8	5	6	29	26	29
Macclesfield	19	7	8	4	27	19	29
Rotherham	19	7	7	5	30	28	28
Scarborough	19	8	3	8	30	29	27
Colchester	19	7	6	6	27	25	27
Shrewsbury	19	7	5	7	31	29	26
Cardiff	19	5	11	3	19	18	26
Torquay	19	6	7	6	28	29	25
L Orient	19	6	6	7	19	19	24
Mansfield	19	6	5	8	25	24	23
Rochdale	19	7	2	10	24	24	23
Camb Utd	19	4	9	6	26	27	21
Darlington	19	4	8	7	23	28	20
Swansea	19	5	2	12	20	31	17
Hull	19	4	3	12	23	37	15
Brighton	19	2	6	11	13	28	12
Doncaster	19	0	6	13	12	45	6

Vauxhall Conference

(—) Farnborough v Kidderminster
(—) Gateshead v Yeovil
(—) Hereford v Dover
(—) Kettering v Stevenage
(—) Leek v Cheltenham
(—) Northwich v Welling
(—) Rushden and Diamonds v Hayes
(—) Slough v Southport
(—) Stalybridge v Hednesford
(—) Telford v Morecambe
(—) Woking v Halifax

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(40) Hibernian v Motherwell
(—) Kilmarnock v Dunfermline
(41) Rangers v St Johnstone

First division

(42) Airdrie v Stirling
(43) Greenock Morton v Partick
(44) Hamilton v Dundee
(45) Raith v Ayr
(46) St Mirren v Falkirk

Second division

(47) Brechin v Clyde
(48) Inverness CT v Queen of South
(49) Livingston v East Fife
(—) Stenhousemuir v Clydebank
(—) Stranraer v Forfar

Third division

(—) Alloa v Albion
(—) Berwick v Ross County
(—) Cowdenbeath v Queen's Park
(—) Dumbarton v Arbroath
(—) Montrose v East Stirling

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division. Ashford v Forest Green. Gresley v Crawley; Worcester City v Rothwell. **Midland division:** Evesham v Blakenall. Ilkeston v Sutton Coldfield Town. Paget R v Bedworth. Shepshed D v RC Warwick. Stafford v Bilston. Stourbridge v Brackley Town. VS Rugby v Moor Green. **Southern division:** Baldock v Newport AFC. Clevedon v Tonbridge Angels. Dartford v Trowbridge. Fisher London v Weston-super-Mare; Fleet T v Cinderford. Havant v Witney. Newport IoW v Yate. Waterlooville v Erith and Belvedere

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Carshalton v Hendon. Enfield v Gravesend and Northfleet. Kingstonian v Dagenham and Redbridge. **First division:** Barton Rovers v Whyteleafe. Leatherhead v Hampton. Molesey v Chertsey. Staines v Leyton Pennant. Wembley v Bognor Regis. Wokingham v Croydon. **Second division:** Banstead v Northwood. Barking v Tooting and Mitcham. Bedford T v Egham. Bracknell v Witham. Canvey Island v Tilbury; Chalfont St Peter v Hungerford. Cheshunt v Braintree. Met Police v Edgware. Wealdstone v Marlow; Windsor and Eton v Leighton Town. Wivenhoe v Horsham. **Third division:** Corinthian-Casuals v Croydon; Dorking v Clapton. East Thurrock v Hornchurch. Flackwell Heath v Ware. Ford Utd v Wingate and Finchley; Harlow v Epsom and Ewell. H Hempstead v Lewes. Hertford v Tring. Kingsbury v Aveley. Southall v Camberley Town

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division. Bishop Auckland v Radcliffe. Chorley v Altrincham; Frickley v Hyde. Guiseley v Spennymoor. **First division:** Droylsden v Eastwood Town. Farsley Celtic v Lincoln United. Flixton v Ashton United. Netherfield v Trafford; Stocksbridge PS v Buxton; Whitby v Congleton; Workington v Whitley Bay

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Flint Town (2.30). Bangor City v Haverfordwest (2.30). Barry v Conwy (2.0). Caersws v Cemaes Ynys Mon (2.30); Carmarthen Town v Caernarfon (2.30); Connah's Quay v Rhayader Town (2.30). Cwmbran v TNS (2.30). Ebbw Vale v Porthmadog (2.30); Rhyl v Newtown (2.0). Welshpool v Inter Cable-Tel (2.30)

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ballymena v Portadown. Cliftonville v Glentoran. Coleraine v Linfield. Crusaders v Omagh; Glenavon v Ards. **First division:** Bangor v Larne. Carrick v Newry; Distillery v Dungannon Swifts; Limavady Utd v Ballyclare

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division. Finn Harps v Bohemians (7.30). Sligo v Shamrock (7.30)

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora v Buckie Thistle. Clachnacuddin v Keith. Deveronvale v Fort William. Forres Mechanics v Elgin; Nairn County v Cove. Peterhead v Huntly. Rothes v Lossiemouth; Wick Academy v Fraserburgh

FA UMBRO TROPHY. Third qualifying round: Accrington Stanley v Runcorn. Aylesbury v Dulwich. Barrow v Hinckley Utd. Bashley v Cirencester; Basingstoke v Romford; Belper Town v Boston. Berkhamsted Tn v Salisbury; Billericay v Aldershot Tn; Bradford Park Avenue v Leigh RMI. Bromley v Purfleet. Bromsgrove v Worksop. Chesham v Sutton United; Corby v Margate; Dorchester v Worthing. Gainsborough v Bamber Bridge. Great Harwood v Witton. Halesowen v Burton Albion; Harrogate Tn v Blyth Spartans. Harrow v Bath. Hastings v Heybridge. Hitchin v Boreham Wood. Kings Lynn v Chelmsford; Marine v Grantham. Matlock v Winsford. Merthyr v Cambridge City. Nuneaton v Altrincham; Sittingbourne v Abingdon Town. Solihull v Emley; St Albans v Bishop's Stortford; Tamworth v Lancaster. Wisbech v Raunds T; Yeading v St Leonards

TOMORROW

FA Carling Premiership

† Arsenal v Liverpool (4.0)
† Manchester Utd v Blackburn (3.0)

Scottish Coca-Cola Cup
Final

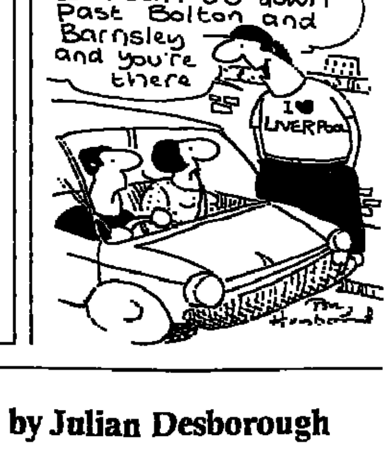
Celtic v Dundee Utd
(at Ibrox, 3.0)

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Cork v Kilkenny (2.0), UCD v Dundalk (3.15)

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Doncaster v Wembley (at Armthorpe Welfare Ground, 2.0). Everton v Bradford (at Marine FC, 2.0)

COVERAGE

BBC1: Today: *Match of the Day*, from 10.50pm (repeated tomorrow at 7.20am).
EUROSPORT: Today: Asia/Oceania zone play-off, second leg. Australia v Iran, from 9am (live)
SKY SPORTS: 1: Tomorrow: *Goals on Sunday*, 11am, Premiership, Liverpool v Arsenal (live), from 3pm, Scottish Coca-Cola Cup final, highlights, from 8.30pm; Premiership highlights, from 12.30am. 2: Today: *Soccer AM* from 8am. 3: Scottish Coca-Cola Cup final, Celtic v Dundee United (live), from 2pm.
RADIO: BBC Radio 5 Live: Today: Live coverage in *Sport on 5*, from 1pm. Tomorrow: Live coverage of all three big games in *Sunday Sport*, from 1pm. Talk Radio: Today: Nationwide League, Ipswich v Nottingham Forest (live), from 2pm



How do you get to Everton? Go down Past Bolton and Barnsley — and you're there
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Statistics compiled by Julian Desborough

The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Tom Whitelaw, of Bearsden in Scotland

هكذا من الاصل

SAILING

Girl power provides education for Dutch

From Edward Gorman
Sailing Correspondent
in Fremantle

THE last two boats in the Whitbread Round The World Race fleet reached here early yesterday separated by little more than an hour, the all-women crew aboard *EF Education* showing the men in *BrunelSunergy* the route to the finish.

It has been a respectable performance by the women, whose skipper, Christine Guillou, of France, gave a warning in Cape Town before the start of the leg that heavy running conditions in the Southern Ocean would make it harder for them to compete.

In the event, they did not experience more than 35 knots, which offered an opportunity to beat Hans Bouscholte and his crew and give Grant Dalton, in *Merit Cup*, who finished just 7½ hours in front of them, a run for his money.

The Dutch, seemingly outclassed, are beginning to realise that the best they can do is play catch-up. Bouscholte said: "The other competitors have done a lot of two-boat optimising — we didn't. Maybe we are not as progressed."

Stuart Quarrie, of Great Britain, who joined the boat as navigator in Cape Town, provided a revealing insight into the tactical and navigational realities of a race that is producing wild swings of fortune. He said: "These boats are so different in boatspeed when you get one or two knots more breeze that if you are conservative and somebody gets a tiny bit more, they are gone and you never catch up. You have to take risks."

Almost all the boats are out of the water at the Fremantle Sailing Club, as the shore crews working through job-lists in preparation for the third leg of 2,250 miles head for Sydney on December 13.

Gunnar Krantz, skipper of *Swedish Match*, meanwhile, announced that Matt Humphries, of Great Britain, who joined as a driver in Cape Town, will remain on board for the rest of the race.

Tour rivals fear backlash at Wembley after New Zealand fall short of high expectations

Wales pinpoint weaknesses in All Black armour

By Mark Souster

ANOTHER week, another football stadium and another step on New Zealand's northern-hemisphere odyssey, as well as an important staging post for Wales on their road back to respectability. For the All Blacks last week it was Old Trafford and England, today it is Wembley and Wales at a venue that stages a rugby union international for only the second time. It is an historic setting, a stage on which players can either freeze or flourish.

History is stacked against Wales. They have not beaten New Zealand since 1953 and have only won three times in all. The match today, however, the seventeenth between two nations of rich rugby heritage, has the potential to befit the occasion, with both teams wedded to the idea of running, swashbuckling rugby. New Zealand feel they still have something to prove, while Wales are keen to eat at rugby's high table once again.

Wembley's sense of history is all-embracing as Nigel Walker, the Wales left wing, discovered when the team trained there on Thursday. The trick is not to let it overwhelm. "I was trying to visualise where Geoff Hurst scored his hat-trick in 1966, where Jonathan Davies scored his try for Great Britain," Walker said. "So much has happened there. I was like a kid in a sweet shop, gazing at the surface, the sheer size of the place."

It will be a new experience for both countries; how each adapts will be crucial. Wembley is Wales's temporary home for the next two years while the National Stadium, 140 miles down the M4 in Cardiff, is rebuilt. With regard to the team, the building metaphor is appropriate as this international is also an important juncture in the redevelopment of Wales under Kevin Bowring.

Even a year ago, Wales would have dreaded the prospect of facing the All Blacks. But times are changing and the Welsh have reason not to be overawed or intimidated at the thought of New Zealand, who in the past seven days have found themselves unnecessarily distracted by cheating allegations and two performances that, by their unforgiving standards, fell short of expectation.

Within the Wales camp there is a hard-headed realism about what lies in store in front of a capacity 72,000 crowd this afternoon, a realism brought about by the experience of players such as Scott Gibbs and Allan Bateman. Gibbs knows better than most what lies in store.

"Most people now realise that it's no good trying simply to defend against sides as good as New Zealand. That will certainly be the case at Wembley because when I have played there in rugby league the pitch sems to be 80 yards wide. Their back three are so good that we have to be aware of their threat," Gibbs said.

His fellow centre, Bateman, feels Wales have found chinks in the All Blacks armour. "They are a great side but we have targeted a couple of areas of weakness, which we will be trying to expose," he said. "It all depends on how much ball we win.

"If we can get enough possession, then we have got much more potential in the back line than England. I am sure we can pose them a lot more problems than England did at Old Trafford.

"I am sure our coaches will be looking just as much at the Welsh performance as the result, but for all the players it is the result that matters.

"It could be a fantastic game, but if we get beaten by 60 points we are not going to be happy. But we won't mind if it's a drab game and we win by penalties.

"Mike Catt did not have one of his best games with the boot against New Zealand last week, but I am sure they will be very wary of Neil's [Jenkins] kicking ability. They will not want to infringe too much knowing what Neil could do to them, so hopefully that will allow us to get a lot more possession from off the floor."

The All Blacks, however, are equally aware of the threat posed by the four British Isles representatives in the Wales threequarter line. John Hart, the New Zealand coach, talks of his respect and admiration for such players and privately of the damage they can cause. He knows that Howley is champing at the bit, while Jenkins will not be as forgiving as Catt last week.

The problem for Wales will be providing sufficient ball for their backs to wreak some kind of havoc, while also being able to maintain their defensive shape for 80 minutes. That is why, during the build-up this week, attention has been focused solely on the forward effort in the knowledge that the backs can live with anybody.

"We will have to battle hard for an hour and then try to step it up in the last 20 minutes. I feel concentration has been lacking a bit in the sides that have so far played New Zealand, although a lot of that is because they get fatigued by the end," Gibbs said.

Wales know too that New Zealand are their own worst critics. "Not once this year have we reached the benchmark we set ourselves," Craig Dowd, the prop, said this week. They are determined to right the wrongs and go through 1997 unbeaten in their 12 internationals. Wales have been warned.

[illegible]

WALES		NEW ZEALAND
K A Morgan (Pontypridd)	15	**C M Cullen** (Manawatu)
G Thomas (Bridgend)	14	**J W Wilson** (Otago)
A G Bateman (Richmond)	13	**F E Bunce** (North Harbour)
I S Gibbs (Swansea)	12	**W K Little** (North Harbour)
N K Walker (Cardiff)	11	**J T Lomu** (Counties)
N R Jenkins (Pontypridd)	10	**A P Mehrtens** (Canterbury)
R Howley (Cardiff)	9	**J W Marshall** (Canterbury)*
C D Loader (Swansea)	1	**C W Dowd** (Auckland)
B H Williams (Richmond)	2	**N J Hewitt** (Southland)
D Young (Cardiff)	3	**O M Brown** (Auckland)
G O Llewellyn (Harlequins)	4	**I D Jones** (North Harbour)
M J Voyle (Llanelli)	5	**R M Brooke** (Auckland)
R C Appleyard (Swansea)	6	**T G Randell** (Otago)
R G Jones (Cardiff)*	7	**J A Kronfeld** (Otago)
N Thomas (Bath)	8	**Z V Brooke** (Auckland)
*Captain		*Captain

Referee: W J Erickson (Australia)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 L B Davies (Cardiff), **17** A C Thomas (Swansea), **18** P John (Pontypridd), **19** S M Williams (Cardiff), **20** S G John (Cardiff), **21** J M Humphreys (Cardiff)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 S J McLeod (Waikato), **17** J P Preston (Wellington), **18** A F Blowers (Auckland), **19** C C Riechelmann (Auckland), **20** M R Allen (Manawatu), **21** S B T Fitzpatrick (Auckland)

New Zealand are great admirers of Howley, the Wales scrum half, who is champing at the bit. Photograph: Neil Munns

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INTERNATIONAL RUGBY UNION

HANDICAP BETTING

England with an 11 point start
5/6 England 16/1 Draw S. Africa 5/6
Twickenham, Kick-off 2.00pm, Live on SKY.

ENGLAND	WINNING MARGIN	S. AFRICA
6/1	1-5 pts	6/1
11/1	6-10 pts	9/2
22/1	11-15 pts	4/1
40/1	16-20 pts	9/2
80/1	21-25 pts	7/1
150/1	26-30 pts	12/1

18/1 Drawn Match

Wales with a 33 point start
5/6 Wales 16/1 Draw N. Zealand 5/6
Wembley, Kick-off 3.00pm, Live on BBC TV.

WALES	WINNING MARGIN	N. ZEALAND
25/1	1-5 pts	25/1
40/1	6-10 pts	20/1
80/1	11-15 pts	14/1
150/1	16-20 pts	10/1
225/1	21-25 pts	7/1
300/1	26-30 pts	5/1

25/1 Drawn Match

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Ireland remain wary of emerging opponents

By Karl Johnston

AFTER a satisfactory opening half-hour against New Zealand a fortnight ago, Ireland should be capable of defeating Canada at Lansdowne Road tomorrow. However, given recent Irish performances against so-called emerging rugby countries, crystal ball-gazers might be well advised to be cautious.

Last season, Ireland played two of the smaller international teams, Western Samoa and Italy, in their build-up to the five nations' championship and were beaten by both, 40-25 by Western Samoa and 37-29 by Italy. They also lost against Australia, although that was by just 22-12.

This will be only the second full international match between Ireland and Canada, the first being in the 1987 World Cup, when the Irish left it late before winning by 46-19 in Dunedin. Two years later, on a short North American tour, a euphemistically titled "Ireland XV" unimpressively defeated Canada by 24-21 in Victoria, but that does not count, of course — unless you happen to be a Canadian.

Ticket touts are unlikely to make a killing tomorrow, with a modest gate expected, but, as Keith Wood, the absentee Ireland captain, has rightly said, this is an important match in Brian Ashton's overall scheme of things: victories over Canada, Italy, Wales and Scotland would add up to a superb season for Ireland, Wood said.

Ashton, the Ireland coach, has given the squad that faced the All Blacks a vote of confidence, with 20 of the 21 being retained before injury forced out Wood, Brian O'Meara, the reserve scrum half, and, late yesterday, Eric Miller. Only two changes were originally made, as Kevin Maggs replaced John McWeeney at left wing and David Erskine took over from Eddie Halvey as blind-side flanker.

Nevertheless, the Canadians, coached by the former Ireland wing, Pat Parfrey, will not lack confidence. They have an impressive record in recent years and, in their last international match, lost by only three points, 28-25, to Wales last July. Remarkably, two of the side defeated by Ireland in Dunedin over a decade ago — Gareth Rees, the fly half and captain, and Mark Cardinal, the hooker — will be in action again tomorrow.

Rees: captain

IRELAND: K W Nowlan (St Mary's College); D A Hickie (St Mary's College), R A J Henderson (Wasps), M C McCall (London Irish), K M Maggs (Bristol); E P Elwood (Galwegians), C D McGuinness (St Mary's College); N J Popplewell (Newcastle, captain), R P Nesdale (Newcastle), P S Wallace (Saracens), P S Johns (Saracens), M E O'Kelly (London Irish), D J Erskine (Sale), K Dawson (London Irish), V C P Costello (St Mary's College) Replacements: J Cunningham (Ballymena), D G Humphreys (London Irish), N A Hogan (Oxford University), R Corrigan (Greystones), A T H Clarke (Northampton), E O Halvey (Shannon)

CANADA: S Stewart (Harlequins), W Stanley (Blackheath), D Lougheed (Balmy Beach), R Toews (Meraloma), J Pagano (Yeomen); G Rees (Wasps, captain), J Graf (UBCOB); R Snow (Newport), M Cardinal (James Bay), R Bice (Valence D'Agen), J Tait (Cardiff), M James (Perpignan), M Schmid (Rotherham), J Hutchinson (IBM Japan), A Charron (Moseley). Replacements: R Ross (Cardiff), R Card (CCSD), A Healy (CCSD), C McKenzie (Burnaby Lake), E Evans (IBM Japan), K Morgan (Ajax Wanderers)

Referee: C Giacomel (Italy).

RUGBY UNION STATISTICS

THE TIMES WORLD RUGBY UNION TABLE

		P	W	D	L	F	A	%
1	New Zealand	25	23	0	2	1033	437	92.00
2	France	28	18	0	10	841	602	64.29
3	South Africa	27	17	0	10	894	590	62.96
4	England	17	10	1	6	423	299	61.76
5	Australia	25	14	1	10	681	562	58.00
6	Wales	23	11	0	12	584	598	47.82
7	Argentina	19	8	1	10	503	636	44.74
8	Scotland	14	5	1	8	284	387	39.29
9	Ireland	14	4	0	10	272	435	28.57
10	Italy	16	4	1	11	404	561	28.13

☐ *includes all full internationals played since World Cup (June 1995)*

TOP INTERNATIONAL POINTS-SCORERS (present players)

		Tries	Con	Pen	DG	Caps	Pts
1	N Jenkins (Wales)	6	67	126	3	51	550
2	T Lacroix (France)	6	32	89	2	43	367
3	A Mehrtens (N Zealand)	5	62	54	6	20	329
4	E Elwood (Ireland)	—	14	46	2	20	172
5	I Evans (Wales)	* 33	—	—	—	71	157
6	P Saint-Andre (France)	* 32	—	—	—	68	151
7	C Spencer (N Zealand)	5	31	20	—	7	147
8	C Chalmers (Scotland)	5	10	24	9	53	140
9	H Honiball (S Africa)	1	34	21	—	21	136
10	P Grayson (England)	—	8	35	4	9	133

* *includes tries scored before 1992 which were worth four points*

TOP TRY-SCORERS

		Caps	Tries
1	*I Evans (Wales)*	71	33
2	P Saint-Andre (France)	69	32
3	J Wilson (N Zealand)	34	24
4	A Stanger (Scotland)	46	22
5	T Horan (Australia)	55	21
6	F Bunce (N Zealand)	53	20
7	*C Cullen (N Zealand)*	*20*	*18*
	J Small (S Africa)	45	18
9	Z Brooke (N Zealand)	56	17
	J van der Westhuizen (SA)	38	17
	E Ntamack (France)	27	17

England v South Africa

	P	E won	SA won	Drawn
In England	8	2	5	1
In S Africa	5	2	3	0
Total	13	4	8	1

MATCH-BY-MATCH

Year	Venue	Winners	Score
1906	Crystal Pal	Drawn	3-3
1913	Twickenham	South Africa	9-3
1932	Twickenham	South Africa	7-0
1952	Twickenham	South Africa	8-3
1961	Twickenham	South Africa	5-0
1969	Twickenham	England	11-8
1972	Jo'burg	England	18-9
1984	Pt Elizabeth	South Africa	33-15
	Jo'burg	South Africa	35-9
1992	Twickenham	England	33-16
1994	Pretoria	England	32-15
	Cape Town	South Africa	27-9
1995	Twickenham	South Africa	24-14

Most points in a match: England: 27: R Andrew (Pretoria, 1994) South Africa: 21: J Heunis (Port Elizabeth, 1984)

Wales v New Zealand

	P	W won	NZ won
In Wales	10	3	7
In N Zealand	*4*	0	4
Neutral	2	0	2
Total	16	3	13

MATCH-BY-MATCH

Year	Venue	Winners	Score
1905	Cardiff	Wales	3-0
1924	Swansea	N Zealand	19-0
1935	Cardiff	Wales	13-12
1953	Cardiff	Wales	13-8
1963	Cardiff	*N Zealand*	*6-0*
1967	Cardiff	N Zealand	13-6
1969	Christchurch	N Zealand	19-0
	Auckland	N Zealand	33-12
1972	Cardiff	N Zealand	19-16
1978	Cardiff	N Zealand	13-12
1980	Cardiff	*N Zealand*	*23-3*
1987	Brisbane	N Zealand	49-6
1988	Christchurch	N Zealand	52-3
	Auckland	N Zealand	54-9
1989	Cardiff	N Zealand	34-9
1995	Jo'burg	N Zealand	34-9

Most points in a match: Wales: 12: P Bennett (Cardiff, 1972). New Zealand: 22: G Fox (Auckland, 1988).

■ *Compiled by Stephen McCormack*

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PLANTERS NUTS

هكذا من الأصل

South Africa offer chance for players to make amends

There are still reasons to be cheerful after defeat by the All Blacks exposed weaknesses that need to be addressed

LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO

Last week, when we went into the first game against New Zealand at Old Trafford, only four members of the England side had experience of playing against — and beating — the All Blacks. Today, double that number can recall how South Africa played against the Lions during the summer and that should help us at Twickenham.

Nevertheless, on their tour of France, the Springboks showed a lot more flexibility and their players seem to have a confidence that was lacking last summer. They are a wounded animal so far as British rugby is concerned and will be hungry to avenge the series defeat by the Lions and reaffirm that they are back in business. They will be aware that the All Blacks will be watching, only a few miles away.

Nobody in the England squad is under any illusions about the need to win. Winning is paramount at this level and we are realistic about what happened at Old Trafford. We have improved, but there is a long way to go; on the other hand, we are confident that we have the talent to make the quantum leap, not just to match New Zealand but to overtake them.

The mood last Saturday was one of disappointment, however the press may have reported it, and even though some people may have left the stadium mildly satisfied. We lost by 17 points, were outscored by three tries to one and created relatively few scoring chances of our own. That's the stark truth, so we had little to celebrate and that is not why we went round the pitch afterwards on what has been described as a "lap of honour".

That was a gesture of thanks to the people in Manchester. We had talked in the dressing-room beforehand about the fact that no rugby union international had been played there for 100 years and we felt that it was important to thank the supporters for the atmosphere they created, which was unique in our experience. Even in trying circumstances, with the team trailing by 17 points, they had stuck with us and we needed to show our appreciation — on that evidence, it won't be the last game played at Old Trafford, either.

I would also add that I believe New Zealand to be a beatable side. Perhaps we have become hung up in the mythology of the All Blacks, that they are the world's best team and that their midweek side is the world's second-best team, which did not look to be the case in Bristol last Tuesday. We learnt an expensive lesson at Old Trafford, particularly when they hit us with two quick scores in the first half, which clearly demonstrated we were committing too many men to the rucks and mauls.

We have a tendency in this country to play with our heads down in defence, rather than looking at what the opposition are doing. When they move ball swiftly from the point of contact and you find players such as the Brooke brothers and Ian Jones standing out in the backs, clearly they have been able to clear possession with fewer players. The difference between the All Blacks and the rest is that, when they apply pressure, they maintain it.

There were long periods when we did apply pressure to them and that was part of the reason I chose to kick some penalties to touch in their 22, rather than at goal: at those particular moments, it was important to keep the momentum going, to turn the screw and try to achieve the maximum number of points available. That our pressure did not result in points is something we can deal with, we can explore different ways of ramming home the advantage, whether it be in three points, five or seven.

I was interested to hear John Hart, the New Zealand coach, say afterwards that his team played as they had trained in their last session before Old Trafford. Clearly, he was dissatisfied at the quality of that session, which, as they won by 17 points, is an indication of what is required if we are to lift our own standards: our own training on Tuesday, therefore, was extremely demanding, both physically and mentally.

Since we lost three players injured from the match today — Kyran Bracken, Tony Diprose and Phil de Glanville — it may also have sounded expensive, but there has been a cumulative effect upon bodies in this intense series of matches. You have to train as you want to play, to reproduce the intense pressure and, rather than stepping down as we go through these games, we need to go up two or three gears.

'I believe New Zealand to be a beatable side'

Our session included opposed training and was healthy and competitive, including a number of big hits, which reflected the enthusiasm of everyone to aspire to a place in the remaining two games in the series. I would like to think that, with each game, we are stepping up a level and, although South Africa have players such as Henry Honiball who offer an obvious threat, I believe that the players we have pose similar problems for them.

We will go into the match without Martin Johnson, after his one-match suspension. Martin is a world-class player, one of the best locks in international rugby with first-hand experience of playing against — and beating — South Africa. All I will say is that the whole squad wants to be involved in a clean game, that the team management has looked at the incident with Justin Marshall and taken the appropriate action swiftly; that has been important, that decisions are made for or against rather than being allowed to drift and create uncertainty.

We have to see this as an opportunity for Danny Grewcock, who has trained well and shows a passion to play for England. That is what this series is about, assessing which players can succeed against the best and Danny has no bigger stage than against the holders of the World Cup.

England's lack of experience weighs heavily

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S AUTUMN CHALLENGE

THE prospect of two crowds, each in excess of 70,000, assembling to watch international rugby union being played within a dozen miles of each other is at once exhilarating and alarming. Exhilarating that rugby can attract such capacity numbers at Twickenham and Wembley this afternoon; alarming that such high-profile matches should be fighting for attention at the same time.

But then, forward planning has not been a feature of the game's administration during the birth of the professional game these past two years. However, the players whom so many spectators have come to see have been swept up in the madcap dash of which November has consisted.

During this past fortnight of international extravaganza there has been only one change in the global rankings: New Zealand, who play Wales at Wembley, have confirmed their superiority, but South Africa have edged ahead of England, whom they meet at Twickenham. Indeed, the Springboks are closing down on France in terms of results since the 1995 World Cup and victory this afternoon would restore them to second place and affirm their traditional rivalry with the All Blacks.

It is a victory they must be favoured to achieve in the Nike international, despite the political and playing problems that littered the first half of the southern-hemisphere season. England, for all the encouragement that they have justifiably derived from their recent matches with New Zealand and Australia, are long on enthusiasm but desperately short of experience — even shorter, now, for the loss through suspension of Martin Johnson and through injury of Phil de Glanville.

Only three of their players have reached double figures in terms of international appearances; contrast that with the experience available to the British Isles during their tour of South Africa last summer, when they won the series by the skin of Jeremy Guscott's dropped goal in Durban against a South Africa side at odds with itself. If the Springboks have achieved anything over the past month it is the restoration of confidence and, even if they choose to regard the 52-10 dismissal of France last Saturday as a fond aberration, it goes a long way to balancing England's home advantage.

"I think I have got selection right," Nick Mallett said, using his words carefully. The utter frustration Mallett must have felt while South Africa stumbled from crisis to crisis earlier this year can hardly be imagined. Now that he is coach he has moved Percy Montgomery from centre to full back, Andre Snyman from wing to centre, introduced the inventive Dick Muir at centre, restored Adrian Garvey to prop and assured Henry Honiball that he is a world-class fly half.

The response has been evident in Italy and France, but Mallett recognises today as the biggest hurdle of his first months in office. Success at Twickenham, where South Africa have played on only seven occasions in 84 years, losing in 1969 and 1992, would be affirmation of his playing policy.

Roger Uttley, the England manager, shrugged off his team's lack of experience. "It's only a concern in terms of the amount of preparation the boys have had," he said. Yet the England tight forwards have still to repair the damage wrought in South Africa, when as Lions they found themselves bypassed by their Celtic cousins.

An encouraging display against New Zealand a week ago has been undermined by the loss of Johnson, though Danny Grewcock, 25, has an unparallelled opportunity to make his mark at lock. It will be his first game at the stadium. Matthew Dawson is even more eager to resume his international career against the least experienced player in the South Africa XV, Werner Swanepoel.

The Northampton scrum half became the linchpin of the Lions, but gave way to Kyran Bracken earlier this month. Now he has the chance to feed the midfield of Mike Catt and Will Greenwood that, allied to the perceptive support play and speed of Neil Back, proved the making of the Lions' midweek XV. Indeed, Back is regarded by the South Africans as the player who may undo many of their plans, such is their regard for his pace to the breakdown.

Yesterday, the Rugby Football Union called for immediate talks with BSkyB, the satellite television company part-owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, to resolve payment issues relating to the five-year contract signed last year.

ENGLAND		SOUTH AFRICA
M B Perry (Bath)	15	**P C Montgomery** (Western Prov)
J Bentley (Newcastle)	14	**J T Small** (Western Province)
W J H Greenwood (Leicester)	13	**A H Snyman** (N Transvaal)
N J J Greenstock (Wasps)	12	**D J Muir** (Western Prov)
D L Rees (Sale)	11	**P W G Rossouw** (Western Prov)
M J Catt (Bath)	10	**H W Honiball** (Natal)
M J S Dawson (Northampton)	9	**W Swanepoel** (Free State)
J Leonard (Harlequins)	1	**J P du Randt** (Free State)
R Cockerill (Leicester)	2	**J Dalton** (Gauteng)
D J Garforth (Leicester)	3	**A C Garvey** (Natal)
D J Grewcock (Saracens)	4	**K Otto** (Northern Transvaal)
G S Archer (Newcastle)	5	**M G Andrews** (Natal)
L B N Dallaglio (Wasps)*	6	**A D Aitken** (Western Province)
N A Back (Leicester)	7	**A G Venter** (Free State)
R A Hill (Saracens)	8	**G H Teichmann** (Natal)*
*Captain		*Captain

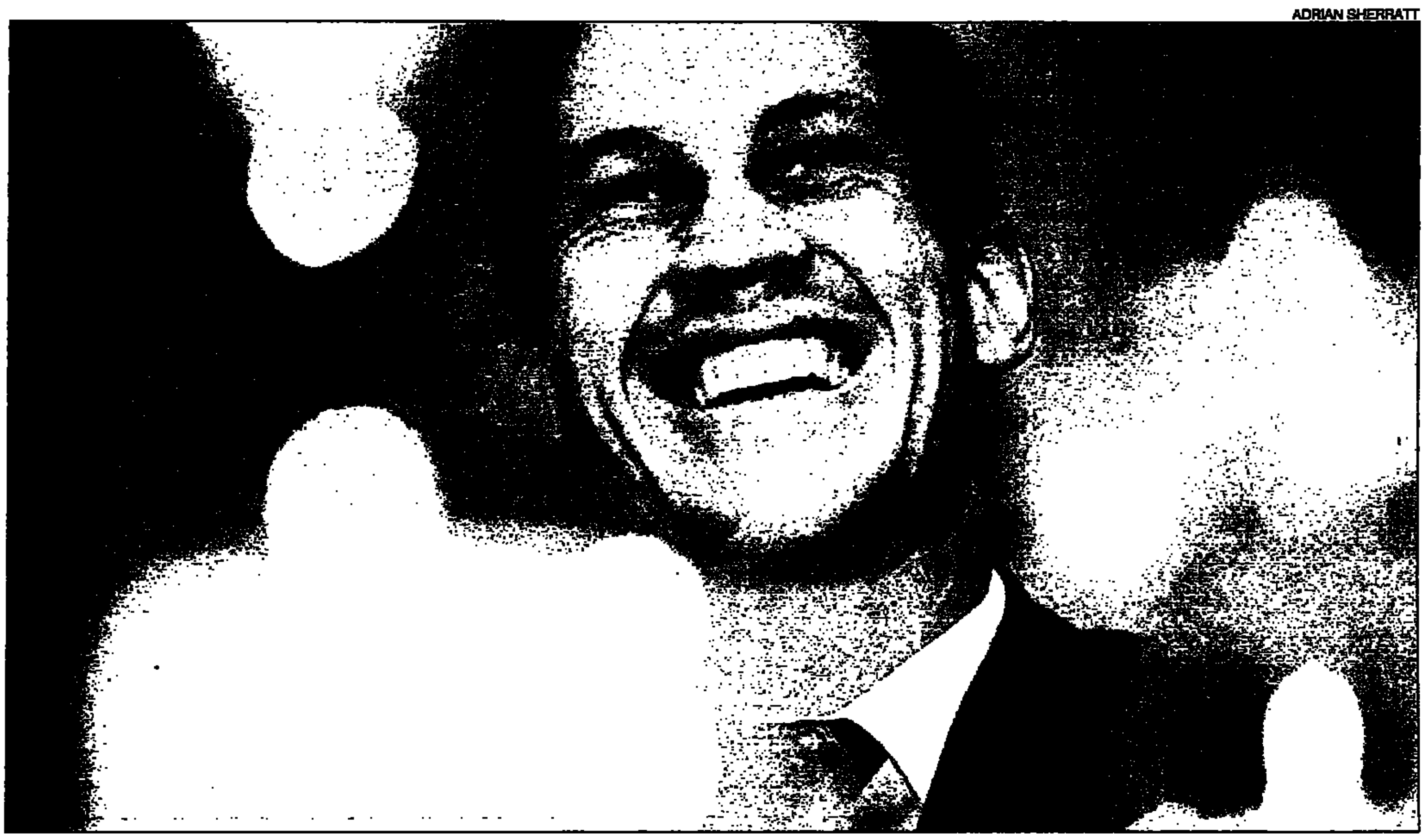
Referee: C J Hawke (New Zealand)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 P J Grayson (Northampton), **17** A S Healey (Leicester), **18** C M A Sheasby (Wasps), **19** S D Shaw (Wasps), **20** G C Rowntree (Leicester), **21** M P Regan (Bath)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 J Swart (Western Province), **17** J H de Beer (Free State), **18** D van Zyl (Mpumalanga), **19** R B Skinstad (Western Province), **20** W Meyer (Free State), **21** A E Drotske (Free State)

Rebel wing's long and winding road to respectability leads to Twickenham

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Small, the explosive South Africa wing, is intensely proud of the rugby heritage of his country. "I have huge respect for the colours," he said

Looking behind the Small faces

DAVID HANDS

Let us paint the faces of James Small. Holder of the record number of appearances for South Africa — the first South African to be sent off in an international. One short of the record of international tries by a South African — *agent provocateur* throughout his career. Male model — night-clubbing, party-guy at the cost of his Springbok place.

Let us try again: Small, the toast of a rugby-mad nation. Small, the man of soul and man of business. Small, the chairman of a disciplinary committee? No, that last is absolutely true. Small, the senior player of the South Africa party that comes to Twickenham today to play England, chairs the squad's internal disciplinary committee and even he can scarcely suppress a chuckle.

"I'm growing old in a dignified manner," he said, and burst out laughing at the thought. "Maybe it's because I've experienced both sides of it. People change every day." At 28, Small believes himself to be on the "doorstep of the best rugby of my career". Why has it taken him so long? He erupted on to the international stage in 1992, when South Africa were readmitted to international competition, scored eight tries in seven appearances but his talent was somehow submerged in the image of the young rebel.

Small himself admitted that he plays up to the role because it is good for business, but you suspect that only now has he managed to achieve an element of control. That has to do with the passing of the years, with a degree of personal contentment with his life in Cape Town, his birthplace, with his partner, Christina, but it has also to do with the febrile nature of South African society and South African rugby during his ascent towards manhood.

You love him or loath him. The British Isles inclined towards the latter emotion in South Africa last summer, notably after a tense encounter between Small and John Bentley when the Lions played Western Province in Cape Town. Bentley spent the afternoon needling Small, there was an altercation and later Small accused his opposite number of eye-gouging. The charge was swiftly denied but the two wings appear again today, although not in direct opposition.

He was raised in Johannesburg, where he played rugby and football; his father, Vernon, won Springbok colours in 1956 at inside left. "The football side I played with used to kick each other as much as the ball," he said. "It was a very bad team but it was difficult in those days for a young white kid to get anywhere in the game. There was no discipline, no team structure, everyone screaming at each other — looking back, that may be where some of my temperament came from."

Small made his international debut on the wing against New Zealand at Ellis Park but a year later made different headlines when he was sent off for verbal abuse during an international in Australia. In 1994 he was cited for a dangerous tackle in New Zealand and withdrawn from the party that visited Scotland and Wales after becoming involved in a nightclub fracas.

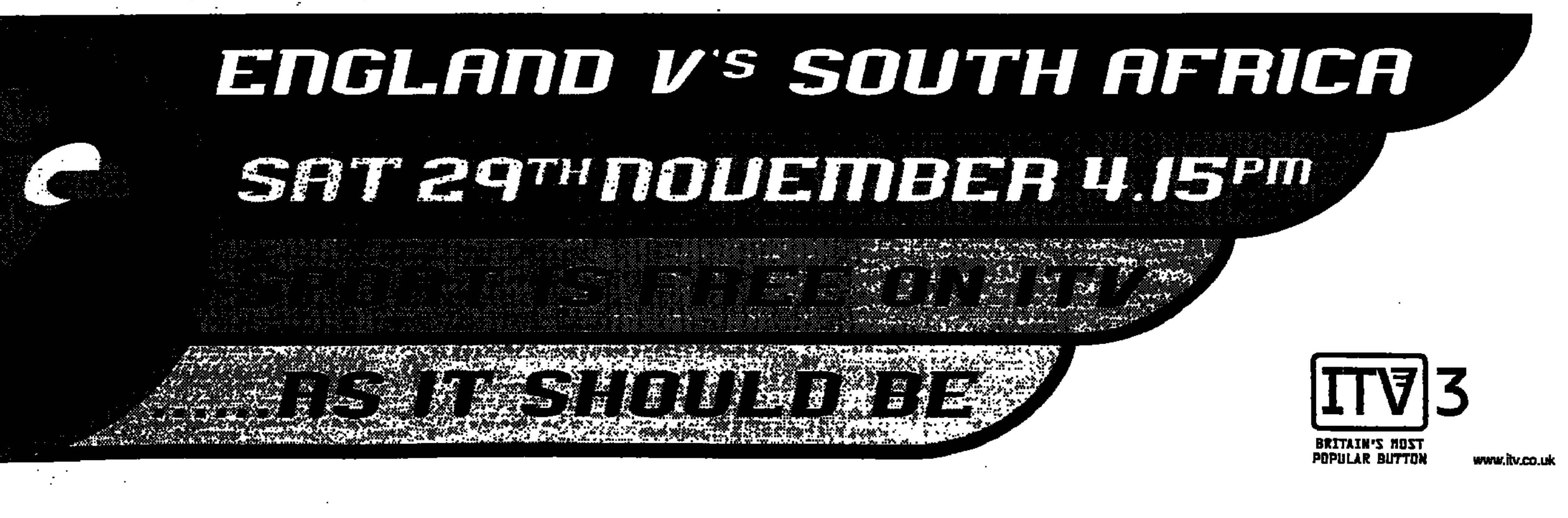
In 1996 he still courted controversy and was dropped from an international with New Zealand for breaking the team curfew. "I'm growing up as a man now, my temperament has changed accordingly and I feel I've carried myself well this year — though there are still two games to go," he said.

"I don't look back. Playing rugby for South Africa is a hell of an honour for me, something I hold dear. I have huge respect for the colours I wear. It was through sport I could make something of myself. I wasn't a great scholar, I'm not a well-educated man — there have been incidents along the way, some of which have been blown up out of proportion, but it's also worked for me.

"You always experience hardship in life but I'm the one who bounced back and that's why people at home appreciate me. They see the fighting spirit. The fact that I'm 100 per cent committed to the causes in my life is why people enjoy me. They tell me not to change, that they love the way I am and that's why they come to watch rugby.

"Making my life in Cape Town has been a driving force — I'm at peace there, I have a lovely apartment where I can watch the sun go down over the mountain. It's a very European place. I love the human contact — I can sit in my coffee shop in St George's Mall and talk to the Cape Coloured people, who are very aware of rugby and have a hell of a sense of humour.

"I love my country, I'd never leave my country. The best moment of my life was the bus journey we made round Johannesburg after we had won the World Cup, millions on the streets celebrating. It wasn't just for the three million white people but, like Francois Pienaar said, for the 43 million people. I watched an interview with Liam Gallagher, from Oasis, the other night — he said he'd rather be a footprint than a footnote. I thought that was pretty apt."



The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Tom Whitelaw, of Bearsden in Scotland

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RACING: TALENTED FRENCH RAIDER ON RIGHT MARK TO SPRING SURPRISE IN HENNESSY

Dark skies point to Ciel De Brion

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

WITH heavy rain falling at Newbury before racing yesterday and the threat of more to follow, the shape of the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup this afternoon has shifted dramatically in favour of proven mudlarks with abundant stamina.

Using the combination of soft ground and staying power as a sieve for the 14 runners in today's feature race, the shortlist of horses with the necessary credentials includes a surprise.

Suny Bay, promoted to favouritism after his impressive front-running victory at Haydock ten days ago, will relish the conditions underfoot and Graham Bradley, his jockey, considers him a Gold Cup horse.

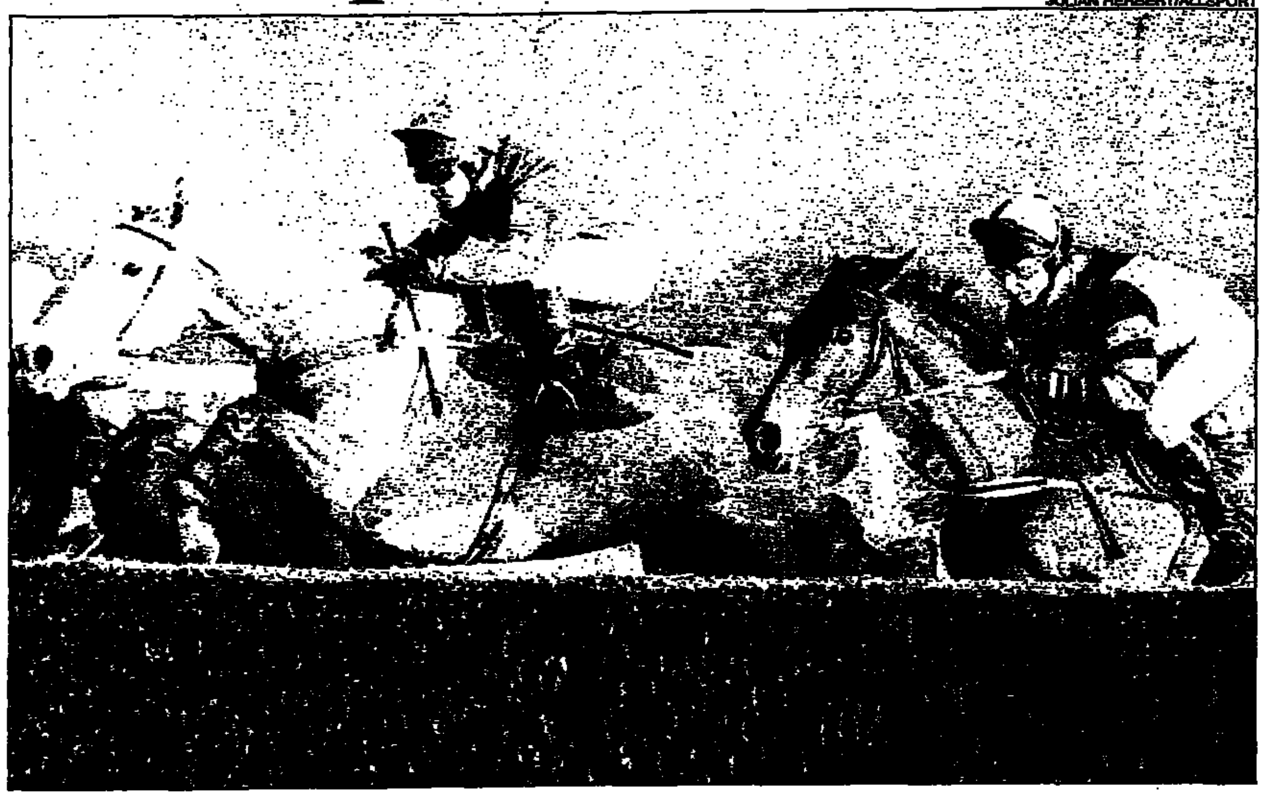
But Charlie Brooks's runner appears to need a break between his races and this arduous test may come too soon. At around 5-2, last season's Grand National runner-up looks plenty short enough — especially as no favourite has won this race since Burrough Hill Lad in 1984.

Belmont King represents Paul Nicholls, whose chasers are in terrific form and winning regularly on their seasonal reappearance. Winner of the Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow on his first outing last term, he finished the season with a game defeat of Samlee in the Scottish Grand National at Ayr. A proven mudlark, he will relish the stamina test and must go well — although he does not look particularly well handicapped.

General Wolfe finished an excellent second behind Suny Bay in the Edward Hanmer Chase at Haydock and reopposes on 5lb better terms for an 11-length beating. Tim Forster's tough galloper saves his best for flat, left-handed tracks so should enjoy Newbury — and the mud. He would not need to improve much to feature in the finish.

Although Time For A Run is considered best on good ground, the Irish raider has won on heavy and looks fairly treated, judged on his second to King Lucifer at the Cheltenham Festival in March. A winner on the Flat at Listowel in September, he made an encouraging chasing reappearance over an inadequate trip three weeks ago. "He seemed to work well on Saturday. Philip Fenton, who rode him at Cheltenham, thought the horse was in excellent shape," Edward O'Grady, trainer of the ten-year-old, said.

JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT



The grey Suny Bay is favourite for the Hennessy at Newbury today after his impressive Haydock victory

However, the runner that I believe has a big chance at enticing odds is Ciel De Brion, the supposed second string of François Doumen. Ignore the fact that he is 15lb out of the handicap as the British handicapper has almost certainly underestimated his ability.

Significantly, the French chasing handicapper rates the seven-year-old only 4.5 kilos inferior to stablemate Djeddah — which would entitle Ciel De Brion to run here off 10st 1lb. On his most recent *run, he finished* second in the competitive Prix Montgomery at Auteuil, staying on strongly, more than eight lengths ahead of Djeddah.

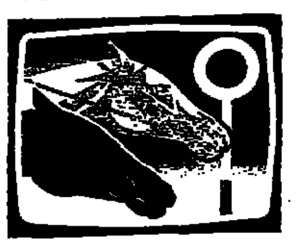
A good fourth in the Kim Muir at Cheltenham two seasons ago, he actually beat Camitrov, who subsequently finished third in the Arkle. Entered for the King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day and Doumen's *long-range hope for the Grand* National, **Ciel De Brion** appreciates soft ground and represents a value bet. Belmont King is the danger.

Away from the gaze of the television cameras, **Him Of Praise** is strongly fancied to follow up his recent facile success at Towcester by taking the Tim Moloney Memorial Chase at Haydock (2.10) off a 5lb higher mark.

Oliver Sherwood was never happy with the talented seven-year-old last term, but he can make up for lost time this season.

At Warwick, **Soldier Mak** looks attractively weighted in the Warwick University Handicap Hurdle (2.30), while **Northern Saddler** should have ground conditions in his favour for the Tiltyard Bridge Handicap Chase (1.00)

Antapoura looks good value to go one better



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

NEWBURY
BBC1

1.15: Sanmartino has done little wrong over hurdles but is unproven on ground this soft. Significantly, his only defeat came in the Champion Hurdle, where he finished sixth, two places and nearly fourth lengths behind **I'm Supposin**. Now with Richard Rowe, the former Irish hurdler accounted for Finnegan's Hollow impressively last season and should be fit enough on his seasonal reappearance. Juyush did *not always look the most* natural hurdler last term despite remaining unbeaten, but has the advantage of having won on heavy ground.

1.50: Go-Informal, second to Urubande in the Sun Alliance Novice Hurdle two seasons ago, missed last term but made a most promising comeback behind *House Captain over course* and distance 18 days ago. Proven on heavy ground, he is sure to run well. However, **Antapoura**, second in this race 12 months ago, could be the value bet. If Aidan O'Brien's mare runs to her best she has a clear-cut chance and *the omens* are good after a Flat success at the Curragh last month. She will relish the soft ground.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: CIEL DE BRION
(2.25 Newbury)
Next best: Him Of Praise
(2.10 Haydock Park)

2.25: see left

RICHARD EVANS

NEWCASTLE
CHANNEL 4

1.45: Easby Joker loves this course and goes well fresh, but is not particularly well handicapped. Speaker Weatherill has not been unduly punished for a recent treble. His energetic style, *however, may prove* exhausting on this softer ground, at a stiffer track than Wetherby last time.

Kenmore-Speed copes with the mud, even if he only just gets home over longer trips under testing conditions. Much improved last season, he shaped better than the distance he was beaten on his Cheltenham reappearance might suggest. Royal Vacation prefers faster ground, but the idle Silver Stick could go well.

2.15: Whip Hand is the one to beat, having impressed in small conditions races this season, but is unlikely to *offer much* in the way of value, as he requires a career-best performance here. **Native-Darrig** ran particularly well when fourth in the Cheltenham handicap won by Mr Percy, given that he is thought not to like undulating tracks.

He can confirm the form with Star Rage, a length behind him (1lb better off), who likes the stiff finish here *but is better suited by faster* ground. Master Beveled, fit from the Flat, put up some sterling efforts in defeat last season.

2.45: The fairly-treated Fiveleigh Builds sets the standard here, but he ideally wants further. He will also help set a decent pace — encouraging interest in the gifted **Issyin**.

Chasers who have missed a season through injury must be fit when risked again, and there is evidence to that effect in the application of blinkers (*indispensable to his best form) and* the booking of Richard Guest, a jockey adept on horses that need covering up early. Montrave will come on for his reappearance, but Rhossili Bay's jumping is flawed, while River Unshion contested a modest race for Cheltenham last time.

3.15: Quango was outbattled by Silly Money at Market Rasen last time, though that looks rather more creditable in view of the winner's subsequent victory at Aintree. Well Appointed reverted to timber with success *at Kelso last time, a feat that* can be emulated by the Tim Easterby-trained **Durano**.

This honest performer, though baffled by fences this season, comes from a yard in peak form and lends a touch of class to this modest event. It could be decisive that he relishes cut underfoot, unlike Well Appointed and Sea Victor. Bures, who won in style at Sedgefield last time, should ensure a decent pace.

CHRIS MCGRATH

NEWBURY

THUNDERER

12.45 **MISTER ODDY** (nap)
1.15 Sanmartino
1.50 Go-Informal
2.25 General Wolfe
2.55 Youbetterbelieveit
3.25 Andanito

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.25 **TRYING AGAIN.**

GOING: SOFT TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

12.45 SOLAGLAS HANDICAP CHASE

(£6,768: 2m 1f) (5 runners)

101	1/1F0-2	CERTAINLY STRONG 11 (BF,F,G,S) (N Skelton) D Nicholson 7-11-13	A Maguire	159
102	P/323-3	NATIVE MISSION 11 (G,S) (G Shouler) J FitzGerald 10-11-9	R Dunwoody	160
103	U4232-4	MISTER ODDY 15 (CD,G,S) (Mrs R Hill) J King 11-11-2	A P McCoy	161
104	11221-1	SUBLIME FELLOW 9 (F,G,S) (Rory McGrath) N Henderson 7-11-2	M A Fitzgerald	157
105	-112125	AMLAH 15 (D,F,G) (Salvo Giannini) P Hobbs 5-10-5	C Llewellyn	158

BETTING: 15-8 Certainly Strong, 7-2 Native Mission, Sublime Fellow, 4-1 Mister Oddy, 7-1 Amlah.

1996: ASK TOM 7-11-9 R Garritty (7-4 fav) T Tate 6 ran

FORM FOCUS Certainly Strong neck 2nd of 5 to Cumbrian Challenge in handicap chase at Wetherby (2m, good) with Native Mission (2lb better off) 1l 3rd. Mister Oddy 18l 4th of 7 to Call Equiname in handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m, good) with Amlah (1lb better off) 18l 5th. Sublime Fellow beat Coolteen Hero 9l in 3-runner handicap chase 0-135 at Warwick (2m, good to soft).

MISTER ODDY goes well round here and the ground has turned in his favour

1.15 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS GERRY FEILDEN HURDLE

BBC1

(Grade II: £11,840: 2m 110yd) (5 runners)

201	1111-	JUYUSH 280 (D,G,S) (W Stuart) J Old 5-11-6	M A Fitzgerald	148
202	1161-11	SANMARTINO 18 (CD,F,G,S) (K Abdulla) D Nicholson 5-11-6	A Maguire	167
203	22F5-F3	FINNEGAN'S HOLLOW 14 (BF,D,G,S) (J McManus) A P O'Brien (Ire) 7-11-0	C Swan	150
204	1140-	I'M SUPPOSIN 224 (D,S) (N Cooper) R Rowe 5-11-0	D Bridgwater	179
205	021556-	IODER WAN 275 (D,G,S) (G Thomson) Mrs C Hicks 5-10-9	R Dunwoody	—

BETTING: 4-5 Sanmartino, 3-1 I'm Supposin, 9-2 Juyush, 7-1 Finnegan's Hollow, 100-1 Ioder Wan

1996: ZABADI 4-11-6 N Williamson (11-4) D Nicholson 4 ran

FORM FOCUS Juyush beat Mistinguett 1¾l in 7-runner hurdle at Haydock (2m, good). Sanmartino beat Whip Hand 6l in 4-runner hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). Finnegan's Hollow 12l 3rd of 8 to Bavard Jet in grade III novice chase at Cork (2m, good to soft). I'm Supposin 14l 7th of 11 to Shadow Leader in grade II hurdle at Ayr (2m, good); previously 7¾l 4th of 17 to Make A Stand in grade I Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to firm) with Sanmartino (6lb worse off) 11l 6th. Ioder Wan 21l 6th of 11 to Jihaad in handicap hurdle at Thurles (2m, heavy).

I'M SUPPOSIN finished in front of Sanmartino in the Champion Hurdle and gets 6lb

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Lady Herries	4	12	33.3	T Murphy	3	11	27.3
J King	5	20	25.0	R Dunwoody	26	114	22.8
D Nicholson	26	109	23.9	P Holley	12	64	18.8
D Elsworth	10	48	20.8	A Maguire	19	109	17.4
N Henderson	19	103	18.4	C Llewellyn	16	110	14.5
J Old	6	34	17.6	P Hide	9	78	11.5

1.50 MITSUBISHI MOBILE PHONES LONG DISTANCE HURDLE

BBC1

(Grade II: £12,140: 3m 110yd) (8 runners)

301	F32FF-P	PLEASURE SHARED 154 (D,F,G,S) (T Eaves) P Hobbs 9-11-7	R Dunwoody	127
302	022PF-3	GAROLO 17 (B,S) (Lady Lloyd Webber) C Brooks 7-11-4	M A Fitzgerald	142
303	14203-2	MISTINGUETT 28 (C,F,G,S) (J Duggan) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-2	C Llewellyn	157
304	13/2F2-	ANGELO'S DOUBLE 264 (BF,G,S) (J Henwood) R Buckler 9-11-0	A Maguire	—
305	112P5/2	GO-INFORMAL 18 (F,G,S) (Marshall & Griffin) J Jefferson 6-11-0	E Callaghan	165
306	/11P-15	SPRING MARATHON 14 (C,D,G,S) Mrs P Dutfield 7-11-0	P Holley	139
307	P1-1	RALEAGH NATIVE 16 (D,G) (M Jackson) C Brooks 4-10-13	G Bradley	—
308	122F26-	ANTAPOURA 20F (S) (J Malone) A P O'Brien (Ire) 5-10-9	C F Swan	128

BETTING: 5-2 Mistinguett, 3-1 Go-Informal, 9-2 Pleasure Shared, 6-1 Antapoura, 8-1 Raleagh Native, 10-1 Garolo, 12-1 Angelo's Double, 20-1 Spring Marathon

1996: WHAT A QUESTION 8-10-9 G Bradley (4-1) M Morris (Ire) 11 ran

FORM FOCUS Pleasure Shared pulled up in hurdle at Auteuil (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft). Garolo 6½l 3rd of 7 to Miss Roberto in handicap hurdle at Worcester (2m, good). Mistinguett beaten 4l in match by Pridwell in grade II hurdle at Wetherby (3m 1f, good to firm). Go-Informal 2½l 2nd of 5 to House Captain in handicap hurdle at Newbury (3m 110yd, good). Spring Marathon 28l 5th of 12 to Gysart in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 2f, good). Raleagh Native beat Feel The Power 8l in 8-runner novice chase at Market Rasen (3m 4f, good). Antapoura 37l 6th of 8 to Paddy's Return in grade I hurdle at Punchestown (3m, good)

GO-INFORMAL recorded an excellent time at Newbury and can step up in class

2.25 HENNESSY COGNAC GOLD CUP HANDICAP CHASE

BBC1

(Grade III £50,249: 3m 2f 110yd) (14 runners)

401	3221F-2	BARTON BANK 28 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Mould) D Nicholson 11-11-13	A Maguire	166
402	11F10-3	COOME HILL 14 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs J Dennis) W Dennis 8-11-10	M A Fitzgerald	179
403	1/512-1	SUNY BAY 10 (C,D,G,S) (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 8-11-8 (4ex)	G Bradley	185
404	5/1P21-	BELMONT KING 224 (G,S) (Mrs B Bond) P Nicholls 9-11-4	T J Murphy	177
405	11212-4	EUDIPE 10 (BF,G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 5-10-13	A P McCoy	171
406	P11/12-	TRYING AGAIN 357 (G,S) (W Dore) D Gandolfo 9-10-10	R Dunwoody	190
407	253-405	DJEDDAH 42 (B,F,G,S) (J Martin) F Doumen (Fr) 6-10-10	D Bridgwater	165
408	2/140-2	GENERAL WOLFE 10 (G,S) (Winning Line Racing Ltd) T Forster 8-10-6	Mr S Durack (5)	182
409	14130F-	YORKSHIRE GALE 217 (F,G,S) (B Naylor) J Gifford 11-10-4	L Aspell (3)	180
410	13d2-3F	OH SO RISKY 25 (F,G) (M Tabor) D Elsworth 10-10-0	P Holley	161
411	33142-4	TIME FOR A RUN 21 (G,S) (J McManus) E O'Grady (Ire) 10-10-0	C F Swan	179
412	110F-P2	BELL STAFFBOY 10 (F,G,S) (K Bell & Son Ltd) J O'Shea 8-10-0	Michael Brennan (3)	160
413	U5P0R-4	GRANGE BRAKE 15 (B,C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Mould) N T-Davies 11-10-0	C Llewellyn	158
414	001-602	CIEL DE BRION 42 (B,G,S) (H de Pracomtal) F Doumen (Fr) 7-10-0	Mr T Doumen (3)	—

Long handicap: Bell Staffboy 9-13, Grange Brake 9-8, Ciel De Brion 8-13.

BETTING: 5-2 Suny Bay, 6-1 Djeddah, Time For A Run, 8-1 Trying Again, 10-1 Barton Bank, Coome Hill, Belmont King, General Wolfe, 12-1 others.

1996: COOME HILL 7-10-0 J Osborne (11-2) W Dennis 11 ran

FORM FOCUS Barton Bank 2½l 2nd of 4 to One Man in grade II chase at Wetherby (3m 1f, good to firm). Coome Hill 5½l 3rd of 6 to Banjo in handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 3f 110yd, good). Suny Bay beat General Wolfe (5lb better off) 11l in 10-runner handicap chase at Haydock (3m, good) with *Eudipe (4lb better off) 26l 4th.* Belmont King beat Samlee 1½l in 17-runner grade III handicap chase at Ayr (4m 1f, good). Trying Again 1¼l 2nd of 7 to Belmont King (18lb worse off) in grade II handicap chase at Chepstow (3m, good to soft) with Grange Brake (3lb worse off) 17l 5th; previously beat Old Bridge 7l in 7-runner handicap chase at Kempton (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) with Suny Bay (8lb worse off) 38l 5th. Time For A Run 3½l 4th of 10 to Second Schedual in handicap chase at Naas (2m 3f, good to soft); previously neck 2nd of 11 to King Lucifer in amateur handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good to firm). Bell Staffboy 7l 2nd of 6 to Thrower in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, good). Grange Brake 69l 4th of 5 to Hillwalk in amateurs handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good). Ciel De Brion 2l 2nd of 13 to Menmont in chase at *Auteuil (2m 7f 110yd, good to soft) with Djeddah (4lb better off) 10l 5th.*

SUNY BAY can continue his relentless progress to the top of the chasing tree

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified) Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Timekeeper's speed rating.

2.55 FULKE WALWYN CHASE (£5,842: 2m 4f) (7 runners)

501	/3226-2	FEEL THE POWER 16 (S) (M Booth) K Bailey 9-11-0	A Maguire	138
502	5023/56	LANDED GENTRY 10 (D,S) (K Bell & Son Ltd) J O'Shea 8-11-0	Michael Brennan (3)	—
503	/12F5-3	MOUSE BIRD 11 (S) (O Pierce) D Gandolfo 7-11-0	R Dunwoody	122
504	5501/2/	SOUNDS FYNE 749 (D,G,S) (Sir Peter O'Sullevan) J FitzGerald 8-11-0	M A Fitzgerald	—
505	113/00-	STORM DAMAGE 287 (S) (Storm Damage Pens) P Nicholls 5-11-0	T J Murphy	—
506	/8011-F	STRONG PALADIN 10 (F,S) (Mrs A Brodie) J Gifford 6-11-0	P Hide	—
507	2301/2-	YOUBETTERBELIEVEIT 398 (BF,F,G) (Uplands B'stock) C Brooks 8-11-0	G Bradley	—

BETTING: 9-4 Feel The Power, 3-1 Strong Paladin, 4-1 Mouse Bird, 11-2 Youbetterbelieveit, 7-1 others.

1996: BUCKHOUSE BOY 6-11-0 C Maude (5-2 fav) N Twiston-Davies 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Feel The Power 8l 2nd of 8 to Raleagh Native in novice chase at Market Rasen (2m 4f, good). Mouse Bird 16l 3rd of 6 to Lake Kariba in novice chase at Newton Abbot (2m 110yd, soft). Sounds Fyne 3l 2nd of 8 to Master Of The Rock in handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (3m, good to soft). Storm Damage beaten a distance 10th of 12 to Brave Tornado in handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Strong Paladin fell in novice chase at Kempton (2m, good to soft); previously beat Neat Feat 1¾l in novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 3f 110yd, good to firm). Youbetterbelieveit 2½l 2nd to Menelave in handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good).

FEEL THE POWER can boast the best form and will improve for his latest effort

3.25 PETER O'SULLEVAN NOVICES HURDLE

(£4,240: 2m 110yd) (15 runners)

601	04-0111	HOLLY'S PRIDE 97 (D,G,S) (A Pye-Jeary) C Brooks 7-11-10	G Bradley	—
602	104-1	CHERRYMORE 17 (CD,G,S) (R & Exors E Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-6	A P McCoy	120
603	142/4-3	ANDANITO 21 (BF,D,F,G) (Bonusprint) Lady Herries 6-11-0	R Dunwoody	120
604		BALLET HIGH 430F (Lady Lloyd Webber) N Henderson 4-11-0	M A Fitzgerald	—
605	0	CACHALOT 21 (D Mahon) C Murdock 5-11-0	T J Murphy	—
606	4045-24	I RECALL 15 (V) (Mrs S Coplestone) P Hayward 6-11-0	I Lawrence	103
607	25112-0	IRISH FROLIC 175 (G,S) (N Watts Partnership) R Rowe 5-11-0	D Bridgwater	—
608	115-2	MR MARKHAM 14 (D,G,S) (F Rosenstiel's Widow & Son) J Gifford 5-11-0	P Hide	140
609	340-33	POLYDAMAS 14 (M Boase) K Bailey 5-11-0	A Maguire	130
610	00/6/	ROYAL TRUMP 765 (M Fitzpatrick) M Bradstock 8-11-0	P Holley	—
611	250-34	SHORE PARTY 14 (Mrs J Mould) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-0	C Llewellyn	118
612	3F22-	SKIMABIT 258P (D Elsbury) C Brooks 6-11-0	M Berry (7)	—
613	0	SUTOR 40 (Mrs J Chaston) S Dow 4-11-0	L Aspell (3)	—
614	0	TIGER LAKE 39 (B Solomon & Miss J Wood) S Dow 4-11-0	C F Swan	—
615	4	BELLARA 175 (G Leigh) N Babbage 5-10-9	G Upton	90

BETTING: 11-4 Mr Markham, 4-1 Andanito, 9-2 Cherrymore, 7-1 Holly's Pride, 8-1 Shore Party, 12-1 Polydamas, 14-1 Ballet High, Skimabit, 20-1 others

1996: HOH WARRIOR 5-11-0 G Bradley (50-1) C Brooks 19 ran

FORM FOCUS Holly's Pride beat Mr K's Winterblues 4½l in 6-runner novice chase at Tralee (3m, good to soft). Cherrymore beat Country Beau 2½l in 12-runner novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). Andanito 2½l 3rd of 11 to Dines in novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good) with Cachalot (levels) beaten a distance 9th. I Recall 9¼l 4th of 14 to Tritchev in novice handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good). Mr Markham ½l 2nd of 7 to Circus Star in grade II novice hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 110yd, good) with Polydamas (levels) 4l 3rd and Shore Party (levels) 10l 4th. Bellara 17l 4th *of 19 to Gratomi in maiden hurdle at Worcester (2m 4f, good).*

MR MARKHAM can go one better than on his highly promising hurdles debut

NEWCASTLE

THUNDERER

12.10 Sad Mad Bad
12.40 Burnt Imp
1.10 Birkdale
1.40 Speaker Weatherill
2.15 Master Beveled
2.45 River Unshion
3.15 Durano

GOING: GOOD SIS

12.10 NEWCASTLE BUILDING SOCIETY JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE

(3-Y-O: £2,841: 2m) (15 runners)

1	11	CORAL ISLAND 74 (D,F,G) (F Patten) J FitzGerald 11-8	P Carberry	106
2	1	SAD MAD BAD 16 (G) (P Savill) Mrs M Reveley 11-3	P Niven	109
3		BARNBURGH BOY 42F (M Burke Developments Ltd) T Easterby 10-12	R Guest	—
4		CITY HALL 45F (Mrs R Key & Mrs V Ward) Mrs V Ward 10-12	D Gallagher	—
5		FREEDOM CHANCE 64F (Wetherby Racing) M Hammond 10-12	R Garritty	—
6	00	HITCHHIKER 24 (Miss J Slater) R Woodhouse 10-12	W Dwan	67
7	4	HOH EXPLORER 11 (Sallue Racing Syndicate) D Barker 10-12	J Callaghan	73
8		I'M STILL HERE 220F (Mrs J Berry) J Oliver 10-12	G Lee (3)	—
9	0	NERONIAN 16 (J Featherstone & D Bird) J Howard Johnson 10-12	K Johnson	—
10	05	RUSSIAN ASPECT 16 (A Black) M W Easterby 10-12	P Midgley (5)	56
11	03	SABRE DANCER 74 (R Allan) R Allan 10-12	S Melrose (7)	90
12		SPARKY 53F (Abbots Salford Caravan Park) M W Easterby 10-12	M Foster	—
13		TARRADALE 38F (Ashley Carr Racing) C Booth 10-12	B Grattan (5)	—
14		DUBAI NURSE (J Smith) A Dickman 10-7	R Supple	—
15	6	RIBBONLETTA 14 (Mrs A Russell) J Goldie 10-7	R McGrath (3)	40

BETTING: 9-4 Sad Mad Bad, 7-2 Coral Island, 5-1 Barnburgh Boy, 8-1 City Hall, 10-1 Sparky, 12-1 Freedom Chance, Russian Aspect, 14-1 others

1996: JACKSON PARK 10-12 R Dunwoody (2-1 fav) T Easterby 24 ran

12.40 STANLEY RACING NOVICES CHASE

(£4,356: 2m 4f) (6 runners)

1	11205-3	BURNT IMP 13 (BF,D,F,G,S) (N Mason) G M Moore 7-11-4	J Callaghan	108
2	500/00-	ELEMENT OF RISK 345 (Trunley Partnership) W Cunningham 7-11-4	N Smith	—
3	5502-36	MENALDI 17 (J Stephenson) P Cheesbrough 7-11-4	R Garritty	—
4	002F1/3	MINSTER GLORY 20 (F) (Mrs P Hartley) M W Easterby 6-11-4	P Carberry	95
5	1310P-5	PHAR ECHO 13 (D,S) (S H C Racing) L Lungo 6-11-4	R Supple	61
6	133-440	QUIXALL CROSSETT 5 (Mrs F Woodhead) E Cahn 12-11-4	S Taylor (5)	72

BETTING: 10-11 Burnt Imp, 100-30 Minster Glory, 11-2 Menaldi, 8-1 Phar Echo, 25-Element Of Risk, 33-1 Quixall Crossett

1996: SPARKY GAYLE 6-11-9 B Storey (4-6 fav) C Parker 10 ran

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W'HAMPTON	105	205
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RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Folkestone (first race, 1.00), Kelso (12.50), Worcester (12.40)

TUESDAY: Newcastle (12.20), Newton Abbot (1.00), Lingfield Park (AW, 12.40)

WEDNESDAY: Catterick (12.50), Fontwell Park (1.10), Southwell (1.00)

THURSDAY: Leicester (12.50), Windsor (1.00), Lingfield Park (AW, 1.10)

FRIDAY: Exeter (12.50), Hereford (12.40), Sandown Park (1.00)

SATURDAY: Chepstow (BBC, 1.15), Sandown Park (C4, 12.50), Towcester (12.45), Wetherby (12.40), Wolverhampton (C4, AW, 1.05)

Flat meetings in bold

1.10 NORTHGATE TRUCK RENTAL NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,253: 3m) (6 runners)

1	4-1	OLD HUSH WING 12F (G) (J Blakey) P Haslam 4-11-4	M Foster	106
2	02-2	BIRKDALE 13 (E Birkbeck) L Lungo 6-10-12	R Supple	109
3	304-325	CYPRESS AVENUE 130 (KGB Partnership) Mrs V Ward 5-10-12	D Gallagher	104
4	P1/231-	FOR CATHAL 299 (D,G,S) (D Hall) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-12	P Niven	—
5	0P-0	JOLLY HEART 11 (Lady Anne Bentinck) O Brennan 7-10-12	M Brennan	—
6	0-	GRACELAND 243 (K Boddy) F Murphy 5-10-7	R Guest	—

BETTING: 11-8 Old Hush Wing, 5-2 Birkdale, 7-2 For Cathal, 8-1 Cypress Avenue, 20-1 Graceland, 25-1 Jolly Heart.

1996: AGISTMENT 5-10-12 M Dwyer (10-3) J FitzGerald 25 ran

1.45 NORTH EAST AUTO TRADER HANDICAP CHASE

C4

(£6,450: 3m) (6 runners)

1	6/11PP-	EASBY JOKER 287 (BF,C,F,G,S) (G Orchard) S Kettlewell 9-12-0	P Niven	136
2	324111	SPEAKER WEATHERILL 11 (CD,F,G) O Brennan 8-11-5	M Brennan	151
3	12P4/3-	SILVER STICK 388 (V,C,D,G) (Lord Manton) M W Easterby 10-10-13	R Garritty	—
4	21112-3	KENMORE-SPEED 31 (F,G,S) (K M Dacker) Mrs S Smith 10-10-11	R Guest	152
5	1231U31	ROYAL VACATION 21 (C,D,F,G) (G Edwards) G M Moore 8-10-6	J Callaghan	154
6	1114-F4	CATS RUN 13 (F,G) (Mrs A Key) J Upson 9-10-0	R Supple	138

Long handicap: Cats Run 9-12.

BETTING: 2-1 Kenmore-Speed, 5-2 Speaker Weatherill, 11-2 Royal Vacation, 7-1 Easby Joker, Silver Stick, 8-1 Cats Run.

1996: TURNING TRIX 9-11-13 A Maguire (7-4 fav) D Nicholson 9 ran

FORM FOCUS Easby Joker pulled up in handicap chase at Newcastle (2m 4f, good). Speaker Weatherill beat Lord Of The West 22l in 3-runner handicap chase at Wetherby (3m 1f, good), previously beat Golden Hello 26l in 5-runner handicap chase at Newcastle (2m 4f, good to firm). Silver Stick 10l 3rd of 6 to Sounds Strong in handicap chase at Wetherby (3m 1f, good), previously 21l 4th of 7 to Toogood To Be True in handicap chase at Wetherby (3m 110yd, good) with Easby Joker (25lb worse off) 41l 6th. Kenmore-Speed 26l 3rd of 4 to Potter's Bay in handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 4f 110yd, good to firm), previously 18l 2nd of 6 to Cariboo Gold in handicap chase at Wolverhampton (3m 1f, *good). Royal Vacation beat Fiveleigh Builds ¾l in 5-runner handicap chase at Newcastle (3m 6f,* good to firm); previously 1½l 3rd of 4 to Popeshall in handicap chase at Kelso (2m 6f 110yd, good to firm). Cats Run 30l last of 4 to Him Of Praise in handicap chase at Towcester (3m 1f, good).

SPEAKER WEATHERILL is in great form and can continue the good work

2.15 NEWCASTLE BUILDING SOCIETY FIGHTING FIFTH HANDICAP HURDLE

C4

(£21,791: 2m) (8 runners)

1	0186/24	PADRE MIO 11 (CD,G,S) (Lady Lloyd Webber) C Brooks 9-11-7	R Guest	142
2	/22000-	MASTER BEVELED 11F (D,G,S) (Mrs E Williams) P Evans 7-11-4	G Tormey	152
3	2P03-15	STAR RAGE 13 (CD,F,G,S) (J Abell) M Johnston 7-11-2	D Gallagher	156
4	11-0164	NATIVE-DARRIG 13 (D,F,S) (W Kerwan) W P Mullins (Ire) 6-10-11	Mr R Walsh	154
5	1120-21	WHIP HAND 8 (CD,G,S) (Lady Lloyd Webber) J FitzGerald 6-10-9	P Carberry	142
6	11141-3	STASH THE CASH 21 (D,F,G,S) (G Shiel) M Hammond 6-10-4	R Garritty	156
7	0-45330	NON VINTAGE 13 (D,G,S) (A Mann) M Chapman 6-10-4	W Worthington	158
8	3/0-314	FLYING EAGLE 7 (D,F,G) (T Maycock) R Simpson 6-10-4	R Supple	143

Long handicap: Non Vintage 9-12, Flying Eagle 9-6

BETTING: 15-8 Whip Hand, 9-2 Stash The Cash, 5-1 Star Rage, Native-Darrig, 7-1 Padre Mio, 12-1 Master Beveled, Flying Eagle, 25-1 Non Vintage

1996: SPACE TRUCKER 5-10-4 J Shortt (5-2) Mrs J Harrington (Ire) 8 ran

FORM FOCUS Padre Mio 27l 4th of 6 to Lake Kariba in novice chase at Newton Abbot (2m 110yd, soft), previously 3l 2nd of 8 to Queen Of Spades in novice chase at Bangor (2m 1f 110yd, good). Master Beveled 34l 13th of 19 to Dreams End in grade III handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m, good to firm), previously *17l 9th of 11 to Shadow Leader in grade II hurdle at Ayr (2m, good).* Native-Darrig 10l 4th of 17 to Mr Percy in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good) with Star Rage (1lb better off) 11l 5th and Non Vintage (2lb worse off) 21l 9th. Whip Hand beat Red Raja 4l in 3-runner hurdle at Aintree (2m 110yd, good), previously 6l 2nd of 4 to Sanmartino in hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). Stash The Cash 7l 3rd of 4 to Star Rage (7lb worse off) in handicap hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good to firm), previously beat Kilbally Boy 3l in handicap hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, good to firm). Flying Eagle 25l 4th of 6 to Good Vibes in handicap hurdle at Aintree (2m 110yd, good to soft), previously beat Beacon Flight 2½l in 3-runner handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good)

WHIP HAND is progressing well and could be leniently treated

2.45 DOUGLAS SMITH MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE

C4

(£3,843: 2m 4f) (10 runners)

1	-314132	FIVELEIGH BUILDS 21 (C,D,F,G,S) Miss L Russell 10-12-0	M Foster	148
2	453311/	ISSYIN 570 (B,D,F,G,S) (Mrs H Brown) M W Easterby 10-11-12	R Guest	—
3	3222U-3	PURITAN 21 (B,D,F,G,S) (J Parks) N Tinkler 8-11-6	R Garritty	129
4	3101-5P	REAL TONIC 14 (BF,F,S) (R Ogden) G Richards 7-11-4	P Carberry	111
5	1F154-3	MONTRAVE 14 (D,F,G,S) (D St Clair) J Goldie 8-11-1	S Taylor (5)	130
6	4U-5434	MASTER BOSTON 10 (D,F,G,S) (M Oldham) R Woodhouse 9-10-13	W Dwan	152
7	123F31-	BLUE CHARM 337 (D,F) Mrs S Bradburne 7-10-13	Mr M Bradburne (7)	134
8	2/1F-F3	RHOSSILI BAY 35 (F,G) (Mr & Mrs W Williams) Mrs M Reveley 9-10-8	P Niven	127
9	3U233-1	VAL DE RAMA 18 (F,G) (D Morland) D Smith 8-10-6	J Callaghan	134
10	32113-2	RIVER UNSHION 13 (D,F,S) (R Craig) J Howard Johnson 7-10-4	R Supple	137

BETTING: 7-2 River Unshion, 5-1 Fiveleigh Builds, Val de Rama, 7-1 Rhossili Bay, 8-1 Montrave, Blue Charm, 10-1 Real Tonic, Master Boston, 12-1 others.

1996: EASBY JOKER 8-12-0 P Niven (4-1) S Kettlewell 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Fiveleigh Builds ¾l 2nd of 5 to Royal Vacation in handicap chase 0-135 at Newcastle (3m 6f, good to firm); previously 24l last of 3 to Lord Of The West in handicap chase 0-135 at Carlisle (3m, firm). Issyin beat Earlymorning Light 1¾l in 7-runner handicap chase 0-130 at Wetherby (2m 4f *110yd, good to firm).* Montrave 13l 3rd of 6 to Any Port in handicap chase 0-115 at Ayr (2m 4f, good to soft) with Real Tonic (3lb worse off) pulled up. Master Boston 18l 4th of 6 to Pongo Waring in handicap chase 0-135 at Haydock (2m 4f, good). Blue Charm beat Winter Belle 2½l in 8-runner novice chase at Musselburgh (3m, good to firm); previously 5l 3rd of 10 to Sparky Gayle in novice chase at Newcastle (2m 4f, good). Rhossili Bay beaten a distance 3rd of 5 to Hermes Harvest in handicap chase 0-125 at Market Rasen (3m 1f, good). Val De Rama beat Maple Bay 11l in 6-runner handicap chase 0-110 at Sedgefield (2m 110yd, good); previously 17l 3rd of 7 to Wayuphill in handicap chase 0-115 at Musselburgh (2m 4f, good to firm) with Montrave (1lb better off) fell. River Unshion 3½l 2nd of 8 to Manor Mieo in handicap chase 0-125 at Cheltenham (2m 4f 110yd, good); previously 2¼l 3rd of 11 to Colonel In Chief in novice chase at Perth (3m, good).

RIVER UNSHION has scope and this is not the strongest race

3.15 CHISHOLM BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP HURDLE

C4

(£3,388: 2m) (7 runners)

1	1220-FU	DURANO 16 (BF,D,S) (C Stevens) T Easterby 6-11-10	R Garritty	126
2	11030-4	SEA VICTOR 20 (B,D,F) (J Abell) J L Harris 5-11-9	D Gallagher	130
3	105-32	QUANGO 16 (BF,G) (L Milligan) J FitzGerald 5-11-3	P Carberry	125
4	24P1421	BURES 9 (D,F,G) (J Hewitt) Mrs J Brown 6-11-1	B Grattan (5)	124
5	0611/22	HOUSE OF DREAMS 6 (G) (J & M Leisure Ltd) G M Moore 5-10-13	N Bentley	123
6	-3232P1	WELL APPOINTED 17 (D,F,G) (Dumlanrig Racing) B Mactaggart 8-10-8	G Lee (3)	127
7	1F035-0	DOUBLE AGENT 16 (D,G,S) (Hertford Ltd) H Johnson 4-10-8	R Supple	125

BETTING: 11-4 Quango, 4-1 Durano, 5-1 Sea Victor, House Of Dreams, 6-1 Bures, Well Appointed, 14-1 Double Agent.

1996: CIRCUS LINE 5-10-5 M Dwyer (2-1 fav) M W Easterby 10 ran

FORM FOCUS Durano unseated rider in novice chase at Market Rasen (2m 4f, good), previously novice chase at Bangor (2m 1f 110yd, good). Sea Victor 11l 4th of 7 to Star Market in handicap hurdle 0-130 at Warwick (2m 3f, good), previously 80l 26th of 28 to Big Strand in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to firm). Quango ½l 2nd of 10 to Silly Money in con hdcp hdle 0-110 at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, good); previously 13l 3rd of 8 to Thrower in handicap hurdle 0-120 at Haydock (2m, good). Bures beat Pentland Squire 16l in 8-runner handicap hurdle 0-115 at Sedgefield (2m 1f, good), previously 7l 2nd of 5 to Best Of All in handicap hurdle 0-125 at Newcastle (2m, good to firm). House Of Dreams 1¼l 2nd of 7 to Superpride in handicap hurdle 0-110 at Catterick (2m 3f, good); previously 1½l 2nd of 9 to Onyourown in handicap hurdle 0-100 at Hexham (2m, good to firm). Well Appointed beat China King neck in 8-runner handicap hurdle 0-125 at Kelso (2m 2f, good), previously nov hcap chs 0-95 at Hexham (2m 110yd, good to firm). Double Agent beaten a distance 9th of 13 to Toby Brown in handicap hurdle 0-115 at Market Rasen (2m 5f 110yd, good); previously 13l 5th of 10 to Seattle Alley in 4yo handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m, good)

DURANO was a progressive hurdler last season and returns to timber well treated

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
O Brennan	5	16	31.3	M Brennan	5	16	31.3
S Kettlewell	3	12	25.0	P Niven	39	134	29.1
Mrs M Reveley	37	158	23.3	P Carberry	5	24	20.8
M W Easterby	11	53	20.8	R Garritty	13	75	17.3
J Fitzgerald	11	59	18.6	M Foster	4	26	15.4
G Richards	13	71	18.3	N Bentley	4	38	10.5

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6/1	Time For A Run	12/1	Ciel De Brion
6/1	Trying Again	14/1	Barton Bank
8/1	Belmont King	33/1	Bell Staffboy
8/1	Djeddah	33/1	Yorkshire Gale
9/1	General Wolfe	40/1	Oh So Risky
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Final furlong for a true thoroughbred

Peter O'Sullevan, racing commentator supreme, will lay down his microphone for the last time today

SIMON BARNES

Talking horse

People always marvel at the sheer professionalism of Sir Peter O'Sullevan. I can't for the life of me think why. Now it happens that, for reasons best known to itself, *The Times* has asked me to review a book called *Pirelli Calendar Classics*. It is on the floor as I write. I have not the slightest doubt that Kate Moss and Naomi Campbell have the quality of professionalism in overplus. But it is not the first thing that strikes you.

O'Sullevan calls his last race at Newbury this afternoon. He will not make any jokes. He will not make any errors. He will not add any verbal colour at all, but once he has gone, it will seem as if all BBC racing is in monochrome.

He is now in his eightieth year. He has broadcast, on radio or television, on 50 Grand Nationals, 50 Royal Ascots, 50 Goodwoods: nice round figures. And something will go out of racing, out of sport, out of popular culture, with this stepping-down.

O'Sullevan represents a genus heading for extinction. He is the voice of his sport. To hear such a voice is (or was) to know exactly where you are, and why. Other members of this genus include John Arlott, in cricket, Dan Maskell, in tennis, Eddie Waring, in rugby league. Others, still living but no longer active, include David Coleman, in track and field, and, perhaps, Kenneth Wolstenholme in football.

I doubt if the genus will survive much longer. Modern televised sport — well, there is just so damn much of it, so many competing channels, so many voices clamouring for our attention. The old voices knew they had our attention all along. They never tried, nor needed to try, to seduce. They knew it was a long-term relationship.

O'Sullevan steps down in this year of, as it were, the golden wedding between himself and the viewer and listener. And people will pay due respect to his professionalism, to his ability to pull off the difficult feat of reading a race, remembering all the jockeys' colours and all the names of all the horses.

It is indeed jolly difficult, and I couldn't begin to do it, but a lot of people can. And professionalism isn't exactly unique to O'Sullevan. Professionalism is a minimum expectation. I expect most of us are decent professionals in our way: professionalism is really only absence of vice.

No, the point about O'Sullevan is not his professionalism. It is simply this: love. The reason he possessed the ability to call every race, from the humblest seller to the Grand National, as if it were a matter of all-absorbing interest, was because it was a matter of all-absorbing interest. And you can't fake that.

Every race really is, for the minutes of its running, a matter of fascination. He simply cannot help that quiet relish that is always in his voice as they come under starter's orders, simply cannot help the rise in pitch as the favourite takes it up with a hundred yards to go.

"I'm mad about it," O'Sullevan said. "I'm mad about the principal players. And although I'm a punter, the horses always come first." Every single race is a matter of earth-shattering importance — at least, it is for some of his audience. Some of these will lose money and a few will win. O'Sullevan knows — knows from hard-won experience — that it matters. "It's all very well for Murray Walker to make cracks and gaffes," O'Sullevan said. "The motor-racing audience doesn't have a pecuniary involvement." He has the respect for a punter that you can only really find in a punter.

A race-reader must be something of the automaton. I was always convinced that the Extel Blower's announcements, before the days of betting-shop television, were made by a Dalek. It was O'Sullevan's triumph to combine such impersonal efficiency with the warmth of an all-too-human punter.

In truth, the myth of O'Sullevan as the world's most fearless punter is somewhat off the pace. "I don't want to sound clever. I've always bet far too much, far more than I should." But he sees himself as a cautious punter — and certainly not a gambler, who must bet on every race.

O'Sullevan relishes best the ante-post bet, the taste of the good thing, spotted in humble surroundings, that will soar to ever-greater heights. Or not, of course. The romance of the business has never left him. And he has, times without number, commented with his usual impassioned accuracy on races that have carried his money to triumph and disaster, and his voice, always warm, always rising, treating the two imposters just the same.

He managed that, even when he owned the winner himself. And he would mutter, almost swallow the line: Attivo, *owned* by Peter O'Sullevan, *trained* by ... I reminded him of the glorious Michael Bentine record of the football announcer winning the pools and he chuckled — he is one of the few men who can chuckle — for a long time in relish of all the terrible things he didn't do when Attivo, when Be Friendly, strutted their stuff.

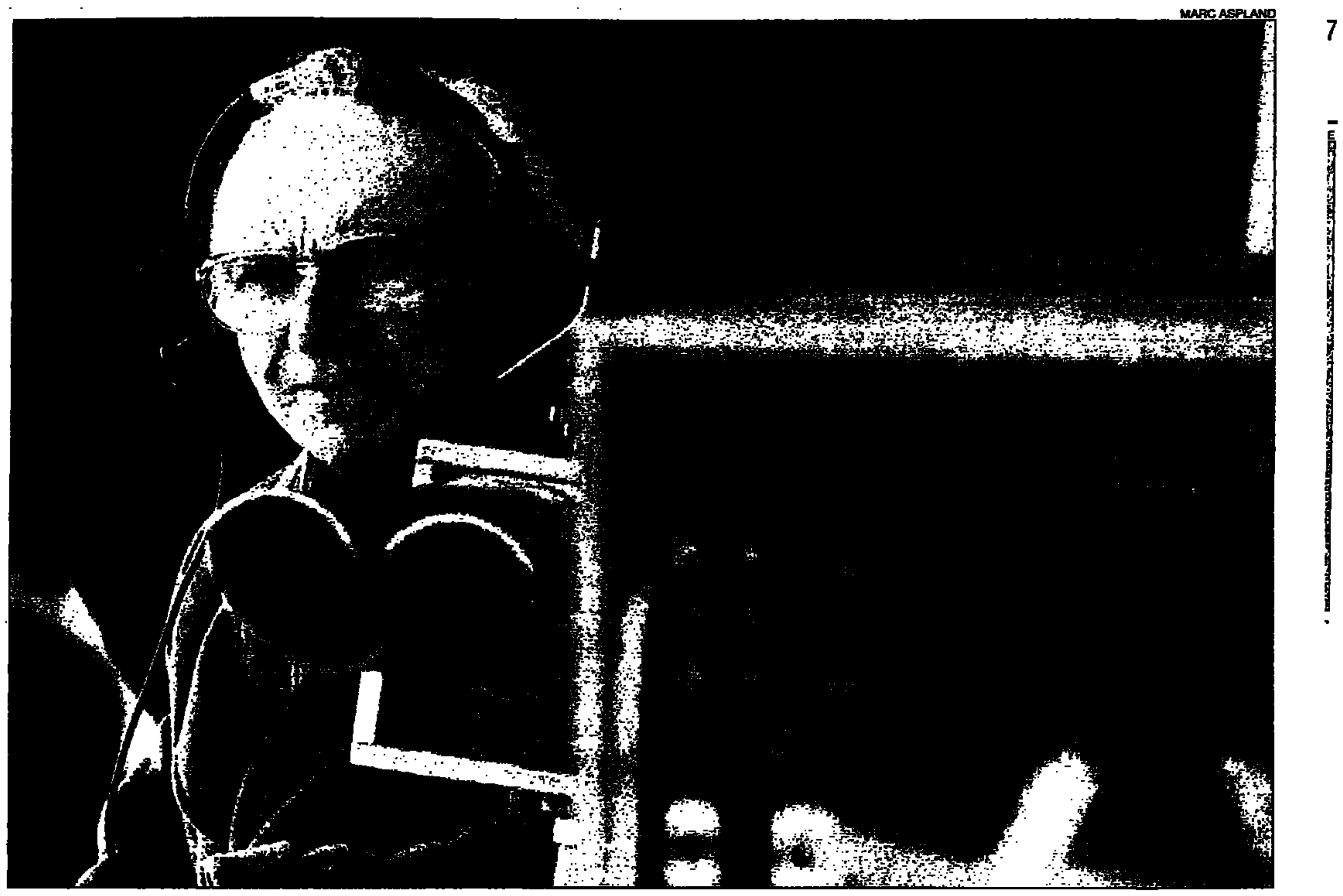
In fact, half the tape of our meeting is about Attivo. Which is not really much use to anybody. I have a long series of stories about a terrific horse that was greatly loved. It was, I suppose, rather unprofessional of me to let him run on about how he bought the dam and bred the colt. "And they said you've got a right little corker here and, if he only grows a little, you'll be able to run him at the White City."

But the fact is, such horsey tales are the breath of life to those who love talking horse. And, contrary to popular wisdom, hearing them is almost as good as telling them. Like love stories, every horsey tale is the same, and every one is unique. Never mind how he remembers all those different coloured shirts: the love story of O'Sullevan and Attivo is what counts.

"And he won the *Daily Express* Triumph Hurdle, imagine that, a race sponsored by the newspaper I worked for, and having to make that rather narcissistic announcement at the end." And he still called every horse home from first to last, without going Michael Bentine. He has a runner, Sounds Fyne, at Newbury this afternoon: even if it wins, and I hope it does, the usual professionalism will be in place; even if it loses, the warmth of love will still sound in his voice.

He does not plan to shut up completely. He will continue his campaign for something called the air-cushion whip, a device that does not damage the animals. He will also campaign against the live export of horses. Three cheers from this column for both those things.

The pattern runs straight and true, you see. Mad about it. Mad about the game. Above all, mad about horses. From the first pony, best and only friend of an only child, to every horse that has ever run under his assessing eye, he has been mad about them all. Never mind the professionalism. In the end, it is only love that counts.


MARC ASPLAND

O'Sullevan calling the horses from the BBC position at Aintree, where he has seen some of his sport's most dramatic moments unfold

Dublin Flyer's lonely return

BY CHRIS MCGRATH

IT IS not the way he should be remembered. The Newbury crowd had turned their backs to the course, their walk to the winner's enclosure animated by the drama they had witnessed in the closing stages of the Jacky Upton Handicap Chase yesterday.

Challenger Du Luc had confirmed himself fearful of open spaces, his resolve failing the moment he took charge from a labouring Callisoe Bay; his rival had retrieved the lead on the post. But if Challenger Du Luc was glad of the company, rarely can Dublin Flyer have been so lonely.

The darling of so many greater occasions, Dublin Flyer had — for the third race in succession — looked a shadow of old. Few steeplechasers in recent years have tackled adversity with such enthusiasm, whether the fences themselves, rival horses or the unyielding Cheltenham Hill. Now Brendan Powell, a vital ingredient to their stirring partnership, cantered past the winning post, totally unheralded, having pulled up leaving the back straight.

While Dublin Flyer runs in the colours of John Sumner, racegoers have long felt themselves the horse's true owners. Some had little encouragement to offer them, though he did not formally dismiss the chances of the 11-year-old racing again.

"I wouldn't say that just yet," the disappointed owner said. "The last thing we want to see is this happening every time. Brendan said he felt the old buzz going down, but when the tape went up, he felt like a drunk. Sumner added: "We're going to have him scoped, look at his back, do everything we possibly can — let's just hope we can find something."

Indomitable gameness having been Dublin Flyers hallmark, it is ironic that the race itself should be decided by the irresolution of Challenger Du Luc. Nor could that horse have done less credit to the determination that defines so many Martin Pipe horses.

Their attitude mirrors precisely that of their trainer and this was confirmed by Rainwatch's success in the opening Freshman's Juvenile Novices' Hurdle, which brought up the fastest century in a season — breaking another of his own records, set on December 13 last year.

"They've been flying," Pipe said. "It really is incredible. I just set out to win races, not to beat records. We can't keep it up forever, but we'll keep trying." Not so, one fears, Dublin Flyer.

WARWICK

THUNDERER

12.30 Albaha. 1.00 Northern Saddler. 1.30 Thrower. 2.00 Over The Deel. 2.30 Soldier Mak. 3.00 Kadastrof. 3.30 Timely Magic.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

12.30 QUINTON NOVICES HURDLE
(£4,257: 2m) (19 runners)

1 5331 FILL THE BILL 12 (S) M Pipe 5-11-5 G Supple (5)
2 -P31 GIPSY GEOF 12 (D,S) G Hubbard 6-11-5 R Elkins (7)
3 R-4 ALBAHA 14 J Banks 4-11-0 W Marston
4 50 BRONHALLOW 12 (V) Mrs B Waring 4-11-0 E Byrne
5 0-40 BULKO BOY 49 P Hobbs 5-11-0 G Upton
6 P BUZZARDS BELLBUOY 7 R Smith 8-11-0 R Massey (3)
7 CINNAMON STICK 196F P Felgate 4-11-0 Mr M Mackley (7)
8 5 COL MINOR 20 R Dickin 4-11-0 S Wynne
9 DIAMOND MARKET 519F B Cambidge 5-11-0 Gary Lyons
10 5 EXPANSIVE RUNNER 31 A H Harvey 5-11-0 S McNeill
11 34/ GONE FOR A BURTON 21F (BF) P Makin 7-11-0 J R Kavanagh
12 6-3F HARLEQUIN CHORUS 7 Mrs J Pitman 7-11-0 Mr R Wakley (5)
13 R00- MILL BAY SAM 224 R Dickin 6-11-0 D Byrne
14 PADDY'S STORM 918F S Dow 5-11-0 W McFarland
15 25-3 ROYAL SCIMITAR 14 (BF) M Tompkins 5-11-0 R Thornton (3)
16 1- SIR LUNCHALOT 245 (D,F) P R Webber 4-11-0 A Thornton
17 3 WHAT A FUSS 61 Miss H Knight 4-11-0 P Henley (3)
18 0000 MARY FRANCIS 21 L Gossick 4-10-9 L Suthern (7)
19 F-P0 SISSINGHURST FLYER 9 R Dickin 5-10-9 X Aizpuru (5)

3-1 Fill The Bill, 4-1 Sir Lunchalot, 5-1 Gipsy Geof, 6-1 Royal Scimitar, 7-1 Harlequin Chorus, 8-1 Albaha, 10-1 What A Fuss, 20-1 others.

1.00 TILTYARD BRIDGE HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,376: 2m) (4)

1 43-3 NORTHERN SADDLER 19 (D,F,G,S) R Hodges 10-11-10 A Thornton
2 2111 NO LIGHT 35 (D,F,G,S) A Tarnell 10-11-8 L Harvey
3 11-1 TIDEBROOK 17 (D,G) K Bailey 7-10-10 Mr R Wakley (5)
4 651- WEEHEBY 261 (D,G) Miss A Stokell 8-10-0 R Thornton (3)

4-5 Tidebrook, 9-4 No Light, 9-2 Northern Saddler, 20-1 Weeheby.

1.30 WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE HANDICAP HURDLE
(£4,812: 2m 3f) (5)

1 15-3 STAR SELECTION 12 (S) J Mackie 6-11-11 E Husband (3)
2 1131 THROWER 10 (G) S Brookshaw 6-11-8 S Wynne
3 13-6 SPLENDID THYME 13 (BF,S) T Casey 5-11-1 W Marston
4 -113 PEALINGS 21 (G) G Hubbard 5-10-8 A Thornton
5 3-11 TOBY BROWN 16 (G) D Nicholson 4-10-6 R Thornton (3)

2-1 Thrower, 3-1 Pealings, Toby Brown, 5-1 Star Selection, 8-1 Splendid Thyme.

2.00 STAMINA TEST HANDICAP CHASE
(£5,030: 3m 2f) (6)

1 33F- FULL OF OATS 236 (CD,S) Miss H Knight 11-12-0 R Thornton (3)
2 6-02 CHURCH LAW 20 (G,S) Mrs L Taylor 10-11-3 R Bellamy
3 3/F- OVER THE DEEL 406 (D,F,G,S) P Mooney 11-11-0 A Thornton
4 411- FLIPPANCE 269 (G,S) N Gaselee 7-11-0 W Marston
5 -21-3 CREDON 19 (D,F,G,S) S Woodman 9-10-7 S McNeill
6 /4-5 HILL TRIX 15 (D,S) K Bishop 11-10-4 L Harvey

5-2 Flippance, 11-4 Credon, 7-2 Church Law, 4-1 Full Of Oats, 10-1 others.

2.30 WARWICK UNIVERSITY HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,320: 2m) (13)

1 130- SIBERIAN MYSTIC 29F (D,G) P Murphy 4-11-10 A Thornton
2 2111 NOBLE TOM 3 (D,F,G) P Eccles 5-11-8 R Thornton (3)
3 3353 PAIR OF JACKS 16 (D,F,G) P Hobbs 7-11-6 Mr R Widger (7)
4 -232 SOLDIER MAK 22 J Mackie 4-11-5 E Husband (3)
5 314- EFHARISTO 450 (B,BF,G) J Cullinan 8-11-4 X Aizpuru (5)
6 3F11 GRAY PASTEL 25 (CD,F) M Pipe 3-11-3 G Supple (5)
7 P50F MARSAYAS 10 (F,S) F Jordan 4-11-2 D Byrne
8 -001 SECRET GIFT 14 (B,D,F) Mrs J Pitman 4-11-1 Mr R Wakley (5)
9 2P1- STORM TIGER 271 (D,G) S Mellor 6-11-1 C Webb (5)
10 -363 MYSTIC HILL 19 (F) R Frost 6-11-0 J Frost
11 06-4 BLAZE OF SONG 18 D Wintle 5-10-11 W Marston
12 0601 CHILLY LAD 62 (F) Mrs H Mobley 6-10-0 Mr A Charles-Jones
13 P-00 WOODLANDS LAD TOO 9 P Pritchard 5-10-0 R Bellamy

5-2 Gray Pastel, 11-2 Noble Tom, 6-1 Secret Gift, 8-1 Siberian Mystic, 10-1 Pair Of Jacks, Soldier Mak, Storm Tiger, Mystic Hill, 12-1 others.

3.00 TOWER NOVICES CHASE
(£3,678: 2m) (5)

1 4-21 KADASTROF 10 (D,G,S) R Dickin 7-11-9 A Thornton
2 164- JOHN DRUMM 190 (BF,D,F,G,S) P R Webber 6-11-3 S McNeill
3 33-0 MR POPPLETON 175 R Brotherton 8-11-3 L Harvey
4 3-F5 SMOLENSK 7 (D,F) J Berry 5-11-3 D Parker
5 0P0/ STAUNCH FRIEND 568 (D,G,S) M Tompkins 9-11-3 R Thornton (3)

10-11 Kadastrof, 3-1 Staunch Friend, 5-1 John Drumm, 7-1 Smolensk, 20-1 Mr Poppleton.

3.30 NORTON LINDSEY STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(£1,035: 2m) (16)

1 5-00 ANDY CLYDE 20 A Bailey 4-11-4 T Siddall (7)
2 0 BUY MY FLY 18 H Webb 4-11-4 D J Kavanagh (5)
3 4 CALDAMUS 30 Mrs M Jones 5-11-4 M Duane (5)
4 EDDY'S SON D Nicholson 5-11-4 R Massey (3)
5 U-6 GOOD VIEW 11 D Nicholson 5-11-4 R Thornton (3)
6 4-54 DUABMATIC 21 K Bishop 4-11-4 G Supple (5)
7 RETURN OF THE MAC M R Bosley 5-11-4 L Suthern (7)
8 RHOSNEIGR BAY Miss H Knight 4-11-4 P Henley (3)
9 ROSCORRIE P Hobbs 4-11-4 Mr R Widger (7)
10 ROYAL SPARK P Hobbs 5-11-4 Mr R White (5)
11 0 SAFE TO ASSUME 31 R Brazington 5-11-4 J Power (7)
12 TARA-BROGAN I Williams 4-11-4 E Husband (3)
13 3- TIMELY MAGIC 266 J Neville 5-11-4 J Magee (3)
14 0 CATCH THE ACTION 77 M R Bosley 4-10-13 X Aizpuru (5)
15 MY FRIEND HONEY A Newcombe 4-10-13 A Bates (5)
16 WOODY SCUD J Pickering 5-10-13 O Burrows (5)

15-8 Eddy's Son, 5-1 Rhosneigr Bay, 6-1 Caldamus, 7-1 Timely Magic, 10-1 Royal Spark, 12-1 Roscorrie, 14-1 Good View 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: S Brookshaw, 3 winners from 10 runners, 30.0%; M Pipe, 29 from 118, 24.6%; N Gaselee, 10 from 41, 24.4%; G Hubbard, 3 from 13, 23.1%, D Nicholson, 25 from 113, 22.1%, Mrs J Pitman, 15 from 72, 20.8%; P Webber, 4 from 23, 17.4%.

JOCKEYS: A Thornton, 6 winners from 48 rides, 12.5%; W Marston, 11 from 91, 12.1%; R Massey, 3 from 25, 12.0%. Only qualifiers.

Blinkered first time

HAYDOCK PARK: 3.10 The Secret Grey. NEWCASTLE: 3.15 Sea Victor. WARWICK: 12.30 Bronhallow. WOLVERHAMPTON: 9.00 Laramania. Summerseat. 9.30 Statoyork.

HAYDOCK

THUNDERER

1.05 Lansdowne. 1.40 Ballyline. 2.10 Miss Diskin. 2.40 Native Shore. 3.10 Space Trucker. 3.45 Deano's Beano.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

1.05 NORTHERN CLAIMING HURDLE
(£2,120: 2m 4f) (11 runners)

1 2404 SHAHRANI 21 (D,F) M Pipe 5-11-12 R Johnson
2 03-1 LANSDOWNE 12 (D,G,S) P Nicholls 9-11-9 L Cummins (5)
3 2141 TOTALLY YOURS 53 (V,F,G) M Pipe 4-11-1 C Maude
4 130- CRY BABY 245 (S) A Whillans 4-11-0 C McCormack (7)
5 00- THE OPERATOR 195 G Richards 6-10-11 R Burns (7)
6 6/0- MISTY GREY 538 G Fierro 8-10-8 R Farrant
7 632/ TEXAS SCRAMBLE 26F (C,F,G,S) B Baugh 8-10-8 T Dascombe
8 34-5 WADADA 17 (D,F,G) D Burchell 6-10-8 D J Burchell
9 P03- EMERALD VENTURE 187 (D,F) F Coton 10-10-5 Mr N Kent
10 5-3P FAIR AND FANCY 35 (G,S) Miss M Milligan 6-10-5 D Bentley
11 00/6 NATIVE FIELD 10 (F,S) J FitzGerald 8-10-5 F Leahy (3)

5-2 Totally Yours, 3-1 Lansdowne, 5-1 Shahrani, 8-1 Native Field, 10-1 Wadada, Fair And Fancy, 12-1 Cry Baby, 14-1 others.

1.40 LADBROKE FREEPHONE HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,868: 2m 4f) (5)

1 3-U3 EARLY DRINKER 21 (G,S) O Sherwood 9-11-10 J A McCarthy
2 4-F1 BALLYLINE 17 (G,S) W Kemp 6-11-9 R Johnson
3 50F1 MR FUDGE 7 (D,F,G,S) M Sowersby 10-10-12 M H Naughton (5)
4 35-2 KOO'S PROMISE 21 (F,G) C Popham 6-10-10 Mr O McPhail (7)
5 -43P ANOTHER COURSE 12 (D,G,S) C Mann 9-10-0 Miss S Barraclough

7-4 Koo's Promise, 3-1 Ballyline, Early Drinker, 5-1 Mr Fudge, 8-1 Another Course.

2.10 TIM MOLONY HANDICAP CHASE
(£10,124: 3m 4f 110yd) (7)

1 3RU- SISTER STEPHANIE 224 (S) G McCourt 8-12-0 Mr J Tizzard (5)
2 1131 DANGER BABY 20 (B,F,G,S) P Bowen 7-11-5 R Johnson
3 05-1 DOM SAMOURAI 11 (B,S) M Pipe 6-11-0 C Maude
4 31-1 HIM OF PRAISE 13 (G,S) O Sherwood 7-11-0 J A McCarthy
5 1/P- PROFESSOR STRONG 311 (S) P Nicholls 9-10-7 L Cummins (5)
6 P21- MISS DISKIN 203 (G,S) R Buckler 8-10-4 G Hogan (3)
7 6-P3 PINK GIN 7 (C,F,G,S) M Hammond 10-10-1 Mr C Bonner (3)

11-4 Him Of Praise, 7-2 Danger Baby, Dom Samourai, 9-2 Miss Diskin, 7-1 Sister Stephanie, 12-1 Pink Gin, 16-1 Professor Strong

2.40 VICTOR NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,599: 2m 4f) (8)

1 1111 NATIVE SHORE 12 (D,F,G,S) C Mann 5-11-13 Mr K R O'Ryan (7)
2 43-0 BOURBON DYNASTY 13 G Richards 4-10-12 R Burns (7)
3 0-P0 CHIEF CHIPPIE 18 W Kemp 4-10-12 C McCormack (7)
4 /62/ MINELLA MASTER 679 (S) A Whillans 8-10-12 R Johnson
5 0/0- RELKANDER 274 Mrs J Pitman 7-10-12 D Leahy
6 00/F ROSMARINO 17 W Jenks 7-10-12 T Jenks
7 F2-5 VADLAWYS 21 S Brookshaw 6-10-12 C Maude
8 0FP- PRIMITIVE LIGHT 257 A Smith 7-10-7 N Horrocks (7)

5-4 Native Shore, 4-1 Vadlawys, 5-1 Bourbon Dynasty, 6-1 Minella Master, 8-1 Relkander, 16-1 Rosmarino, 33-1 Chief Chippie, 50-1 Primitive Light.

3.10 MAKERFIELD NOVICES CHASE
(£3,371: 2m) (6)

1 4P/5 OUR MAIN MAN 12F (S) R Whitaker 7-11-0 D Bentley
2 U2-P ROBINS PRIDE 11 (D,G,S) C Popham 7-11-0 T Dascombe
3 -04U SPACE TRUCKER 13 (BF,D,F,G,S) Mrs J Harrington (Ire) 6-11-0 J R Kavanagh
4 2-FP THE SECRET GREY 20 (B) D McCain 6-11-0 T Jenks
5 2-3P UK HYGIENE 169 (D,F) M Hammond 7-11-0 Mr C Bonner (3)
6 2-32 ZABADI 11 (D,G,S) D Nicholson 5-11-0 R Johnson

1-2 Space Trucker, 5-2 Zabadi, 16-1 Robins Pride, 20-1 others.

3.45 HAYDOCK GOLD CARD HANDICAP HURDLE
(Qualifier: £4,884: 2m 6f) (11)

1 25-5 ALLEGATION 21 (V,C,D,G,S) M Pipe 7-11-10 C Derham (7)
2 332- MAJOR BELL 261 (D,F,G,S) A Whillans 9-10-12 C McCormack (7)
3 21-5 COURBARIL 18 (BF,D,F,G) M Pipe 5-10-9 J Hunt (7)
4 213- MENTMORE TOWERS 239 (G) Mrs J Pitman 5-10-6 D Leahy
5 446- OUTSET 23F (C,D,F,G,S) M Hammond 7-10-3 Mr C Bonner (3)
6 F-53 BALANAK 18 (G,S) D Gandolfo 6-10-1 Sophie Mitchell (5)
7 05-1 DEANO'S BEENO 11 (D,S) M Pipe 5-10-1 C Maude
8 2126 CASTLE SECRET 15F (D,F,G,S) D Burchell 11-10-0 D J Burchell
9 /3-5 MAGSLAD 14 (F,G) J J O'Neill 7-10-0 L Cooper (7)
10 10-0 SLEEPY RIVER 16 (G,S) J J O'Neill 6-10-0 A Roche
11 35-6 *MENSHAAR 13 (G,S) L Lungo 5-10-0* *DOUBTFUL*

15-8 Deano's Beeno, 5-1 Mentmore Towers, 7-1 Major Bell, Outset, 8-1 Balanak, 10-1 Courbaril, 12-1 Allegation, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J FitzGerald, 13 winners from 51 runners, 25.5%. G Richards, 26 from 106, 24.5%, D Nicholson, 12 from 51, 23.5%. M Pipe, 31 from 137, 22.6%, S Brookshaw, 3 from 14, 21.4%. Mrs J Pitman, 5 from 25, 20.0%

JOCKEYS: C Maude, 7 winners from 32 rides, 21.9%, R Farrant, 3 from 21, 14.3%. Only qualifiers

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

7.00 Rubamma. 7.30 Shakiyr. 8.00 Girl Of My Dreams. 8.30 Raise A Prince. 9.00 Jockweiler. 9.30 Village Native.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

7.00 MULGRAVE MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,788: 1m 100yd) (10 runners)

1 6000 GENIUS 40 S Dow 9-0 P Doe (7) 8
2 0202 GRALMANO 54 (BF) N Littmoden 9-0 S Whitworth 2
3 HANUMAN HIGHWAY M Tompkins 9-0 D Biggs 10
4 0433 RUBAMMA 16 (BF) P Walwyn 9-0 R Perham 4
5 00 SECRECY 32 P Cole 9-0 David O'Neill (7) 3
6 0 SPIRIT OF LOVE 32 M Johnston 9-0 J Fanning 9
7 5 FERGHANA MA 32 S C Williams 8-9 G Duffield 1
8 4435 MAREEBA 38 M Johnston 8-9 Dean McKeown 7
9 0 SHE'S A GEM 21 Mrs N Macauley 8-9 P McCabe (3) 6
10 00 SOAP STONE 18 A Bailey 8-9 K Hodgson 5

11-4 Rubamma, 4-1 Gralmano, Mareeba, 7-1 Ferghana Ma, Secrecy, 10-1 others.

7.30 FROST CLAIMING STAKES
(£1,946: 1m 6f 166yd) (12)

1 1110 KALAMATA 161 (BF,C) J Glover 5-10-0 N Day 5
2 0605 NIKITA'S STAR 28 (C,F) D Murray Smith 4-9-10 Dean McKeown 7
3 6116 PETOSKIN 124 (CD,F,S) J Pearce 5-9-10 M Wigham 2
4 1213 PRIVATE FIXTURE 92 (G) D Marks 5-9-10 G Duffield 6
5 -040 HILLZAH 14 (C,F,G,S) R Bastiman 9-9-8 H Bastiman (5) 1
6 325- PEARL ANNIVERSARY 434 (C) Miss Wilton 4-9-4 S Whitworth 11
7 0000 SHAKIYR 12 (B,CD) R Hollinshead 6-9-4 F Lynch 10
8 1520 STATE APPROVAL 11 (C,F) P Eccles 4-9-2 G Faulkner (5) 12
9 4265 NAVAL GAMES 8 J Bradley 4-8-12 C Lowther (3) 8
10 1322 BRODESSA 107 (D,F,S) Mrs M Reveley 11-8-10 A Culhane 4
11 0330 HIPPIOS 4 S Dow 3-8-10 P Doe (7) 9
12 5024 TYCOON TINA 14 (S) W M Brisbourne 3-8-6 A McCarthy (7) 3

7-2 Kalamata, 9-2 Petoskin, State Approval, 6-1 Private Fixture, 7-1 others.

8.00 CLAIRE COURT FILLIES HANDICAP
(£2,085: 7f) (12)

1 0210 PHOENIX PRINCESS 8 B McMahon 3-9-12 S Righton (7) 11
2 6002 CORNICHE QUEST 12 (D,F,G,S) M Channon 4-9-6 A Eddery (7) 12
3 3342 MOLLY MUSIC 5 G Margarson 3-9-4 D Biggs 2
4 5000 AMY LEIGH 12 (V,C) J H Wilson 4-9-0 Dean McKeown 3
5 0000 SHOWGIRL 8 (C) J H Wilson 3-8-13 S D Williams 8
6 6642 HEATHYARDS LADY 8 (CD,F,G) R Hollinshead 6-8-11 F Lynch 6
7 006- FLEUVE D'OR 378 D Haydn Jones 3-8-8 S Whitworth 9
8 4050 QUEENS STROLLER 118 (C,D) B Peacock 6-8-5 C Lowther (3) 10
9 1060 RIVER ENSIGN 8 (B) W M Brisbourne 4-8-4 A McCarthy (7) 1
10 0020 ABSTONE QUEEN 12 (B,D,F,G) P Evans 3-8-4 D Wright 5
11 -006 GIRL OF MY DREAMS 15 M Heaton-Ellis 4-7-13 T Williams 4
12 6000 MUNICIPAL GIRL 15 (B) B Palling 3-7-12 P Bradley (7) 7

3-1 Corniche Quest, Heathyards Lady, 5-1 Molly Music, 8-1 Phoenix Princess, 10-1 River Ensign, 12-1 Girl of My Dreams, 14-1 others.

8.30 BARTLETT HANDICAP
(£3,550: 1m 4f) (12)

1 0111 RAISE A PRINCE 16 (D,S) S Woods 4-10-0 N Day 5
2 5565 PRINCE DANZIG 16 (CD,F) D Murray Smith 6-9-10 M Fenton 1
3 -000 ARCTIC THUNDER 36 (D,F,G,S) B Palling 6-9-10 P Roberts (3) 7
4 2512 FIJIAL 18 (BF,CD,F) J Pearce 4-9-8 M Wigham 2
5 0120 RANDOM KINDNESS 30 (C,F) R Ingram 4-9-7 A Clark 12
6 0316 GLOW FORUM 29 (CD,F,G,S) L Montague Hall 6-9-6 F Lynch 9
7 000- VINDALOO 437 (C,D,F,G,S) M Johnston 5-9-5 Dean McKeown 11
8 3000 ALSAHIB 14 (C) W Musson 4-9-2 C Lowther (3) 4
9 3312 ENLISTED 136 (BF,F) M Prescott 3-9-2 G Duffield 3
10 1460 PREMIER DANCE 14 (CD,F) D Haydn Jones 10-9-0 Joanne Richards (7) 8
11 0144 CHARNWOOD JACK 140 (BF,F) I Campbell 4-8-9 D Biggs 10
12 1040 REX MUNDI 15 (CD,F) P Evans 5-8-9 D Wright 6

3-1 Raise A Prince, 7-2 Fijial, 5-1 Enlisted, 8-1 Prince Danzig, Glow Forum, Charnwood Jack, 14-1 Alsahib, 16-1 others.

9.00 CHARLESTON MANOR SELLING STAKES
(2-Y-O: £1,738: 7f) (10)

1 0000 JOCKWEILER 5 D Chapman 8-12 A Culhane 2
2 0000 LARAMANIA 11 (V) P Evans 8-12 T G McLaughlin 6
3 0652 SHARP MONKEY 5 (V) Mrs N Macauley 8-12 D Biggs 1
4 1030 SUMMERSEAT 5 (B,C) G Holmes 8-12 Dean McKeown 9
5 0000 COMPANYS GAMBLE 14 B Baugh 8-7 R Perham 7
6 0 KNIGHTCRACKER 96 R Peacock 8-7 C Lowther (3) 4
7 "00 MAMBLE'S PENSION 14 A Bailey 8-7 K Hodgson 5
8 4580 SING FOR ME 26 R Hollinshead 8-7 N Carlisle 10
9 3 TEEPLOY GIRL 8 N Littmoden 8-7 D Wright 3
10 0060 THE DRUIDESS 16 (B) G Bravery 8-7 P Doe (7) 8

9-4 Teeploy Girl, 11-4 Sharp Monkey, 7-2 Summerseat, 6-1 others

9.30 HEENS HANDICAP
(£2,085: 5f) (13)

1 4602 MISTER RAIDER 11 (B,D,F) E Wheeler 5-10-0 B O'Leary (7) 8
2 2423 NOBALINO 11 Mrs N Macauley 3-10-0 P McCabe (3) 1
3 0000 CHILLING 8 (B,CD) N Tinkler 3-9-10 R Winston (5) 5
4 0002 ICE AGE 15 (B,D,F) R Wilkins 3-9-10 D Biggs 10
5 0000 SHADOW JURY 28 (B,CD,F,G,S) D Chapman 7-9-9 A Culhane 7
6 3440 SILK COTTAGE 5 (CD,F) R Whitaker 5-9-9 Dean McKeown 12
7 0550 VILLAGE NATIVE 8 (B,CD,F) K Cunningham-Brown 4-9-8 A Clark 4
8 2050 STATOYORK 33 (V,F) D Shaw 4-9-8 J Fanning 2
9 1340 MA VIELLE POUQUE 73 (D) W Turner 3-9-8 D McGaffin (7) 13
10 4230 FEATHERSTONE LANE 11 (CD) Miss L Siddall 6-9-7 M Wigham 8
11 0020 ALJAZ 45 (CD,S) Gay Kelleway 7-9-6 A Whelan (3) 11
12 0000 SUPER ROCKY 28 (B,CD,F,G) R Bastiman 8-9-5 H Bastiman (5) 9
13 6365 BASHFUL BRAVE 8 (D,F) B Baugh 6-9-2 P Roberts (3) 3

7-2 Ice Age, 9-2 Nobalino, 6-1 Mister Raider, 7-1 Statoyork, 8-1 Featherstone Lane, Bashful Brave, 10-1 Silk Cottage, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Ingram, 8 winners from 26 runners, 30.8%; L Montague Hall, 4 from 16, 25.0%, Mrs M Reveley, 13 from 55, 23.6%, Sir M Prescott, 25 from 108, 23.1%, M Johnston, 53 from 230, 23.0%.

JOCKEYS: H Bastiman, 5 winners from 25 rides, 20.0%, G Faulkner, 6 from 33, 18.2%; G Duffield, 27 from 178, 15.2%, P McCabe, 7 from 61, 11.5%, S Whitworth, 16 from 153, 10.5%.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Newbury

Going: good to soft (chase course); soft (hurdles)

1.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, RAINWATCH (A P McCoy, 2-5 fav); 2, Kilbride Lad (R Johnson, 7-2). 3, Borazon (C Llewellyn, 25-1). ALSO RAN: 16 Sliema Creek (6th), 20 Haddi (5th), Junction City (pu), 25 Jalb (pu), 33 Reggie Buck (pu), 50 Cherokee Flight (pu), Maradi, Twin Time (pu), 66 Aspecto Lad (pu), The Negotiator (4th), 100 Tyrolean Dancer (pu) 14 ran. 6l, 14l 15l, 6l, ½l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £1.60; £1.20, £1.60, £3.40. DF £2.20. Trio: £13.60. CSF £1.82.

1.30 (3m ch) 1, STRONG CHAIRMAN (T J Murphy, 11-10 fav). 2, Yahmi (M A Fitzgerald, 6-5). ALSO RAN. 7 Triple Witching (pu) 3 ran. NR. Jalcanto. 13l. P Nicholls at Shepton Mallet. Tote: £1.70 DF £1.30. CSF £2.51

2.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, STORMYFAIRWEATHER (M A Fitzgerald, 3-1 jt-fav). 2, Ripertus (J A McCarthy, 4-1); 3, Mister Rm (C Llewellyn, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 3-1 jt-fav 'Iggins (6th), 9 Tickerty's Gift (5th), 10 Clifton Beat, Crandon Boulevard (4th). 7 ran. NR Nahrawali, Noble Colours. 6l, 8l, nk, 13l, 2l. N Henderson at Lambourn. Tote: £3.30, £2.10, £2.20. DF £9.20. Trio £24.60. CSF £12.91. Tricast £69.04.

2.30 (2m 4f ch) 1, CALLISOE BAY (J A McCarthy, 9-4). 2, Challenger Du Luc (A P McCoy, evens fav). 3, Gales Cavalier (R Dunwoody, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 7 Dublin Flyer (pu). 4 ran. NR Strong Medicine. Hd, dist. O Sherwood at Upper Lambourn. Tote £3.50. DF £1.90. CSF £4.75.

3.00 (2m 5f hdle) 1, WELSH SILK (Sophie Mitchell, 11-4); 2, Stormy Session (J Goldstein, 10-1). 3, Raffles Rooster (R Thornton, 15-8 fav). ALSO RAN: 6 Freeline Fontaine (4th), 15-2 Magic Combination (pu), 10 Brassis Hill (5th) 12 Dannicus (pu), 16 Gamay (pu) 20 Court Master (pu), 33 Barely Black (pu) 10 ran. Nk, 7l, dist, 29l. D Gandolfo at Wantage. Tote: £3.40; £1.50, £2.40, £1.20. DF £25.50. Trio: £12.30. CSF £30.66. Tricast: £61.23

3.30 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, JET BOYS (A P McCoy, 13-8 fav). 2, Old Rouvel (D Gallagher, 4-1); 3, The Full Monty (G Bradley, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 13-2 What's The Buzz (5th), 15-2 Esperanza IV (pu), 12 Riot Leader (4th), 50 Red River (pu), 66 Dutch (pu) 8 ran. 11l, 18l, 14l, dist. Mrs J Pitman at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £2.50; £1.10, £1.50, £1.50. DF £3.60. CSF: £8.02.

Jackpot: £332.70.

Placepot: £16.60. Quadpot: £8.10.

2.50 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, SISTER ROSZA (J Magee, 3-1). 2, Telnein (A Thornton, 6-4 fav); 3, Even Blue (S Wynne, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Clare Man (4th) 4 ran. NR Mister Drum. The Carrig Rua. 15l, 11l, dist. Mrs S Lamyman at Lincoln. Tote: £5.50. DF £3.20. CSF £7.41.

3.20 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, THE NEXT WALTZ (R Supple, 4-1). 2, Fortria Rosie Dawn (S Kelly, 16-1). 3, Luke Warm (A Maguire, 5-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 11-2 The Bird O'Donnell (6th), 13-2 Can't Say (4th), 12 Market Mayhem, 16 Desert Brave, 33 Sense Of Value (5th), Sophies Dream, 40 Charlatrivola. 10 ran. NR. Pepitist. 4l, 4l, sh hd, dist, 19l. L Lungo at Carrutherstown. Tote £5.70; £2.00, £2.70, £1.10. DF £27.70. Trio £39.20. CSF £56.46. Tricast £114.13

3.50 (2m 1f hdle) 1, LINE OF CONQUEST (T Dascombe, 7-1). 2, Bombadil (A Thornton, 7-1); 3, Builder Boy (S Wynne, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 3 fav Woodfield Vision (5th), 4 Racketball (pu), 11-2 King Of Thieves (f), 10 Katsar (4th), 12 Kaladross (pu), 50 Arklow King (pu), Incey Wincey (pu), Ronnies Wedding, 66 Althrey Captain (6th) 12 ran. NR: Justjim. 29l, 5l, dist, 5l, 9l. R Hodges at Somerton. Tote £4.20, £1.90, £2.60, £2.50. DF £35.40. Trio: £90.30. CSF £49.38

Placepot: £300.30.

Quadpot: £379.30.

Bangor

Going: soft, heavy in places (chase course): good to soft (hurdles)

1.20 (2m 1f hdle) 1, FORZAIR (P Carberry, 5-1). 2, Once More For Luck (P Niven, 1-2 fav); 3, Thomas Crown (I Lawrence, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 16 Admiral's Guest (6th), 20 Haydown (5th), Serape (4th), 33 Qualitair Beauty, 50 Albert The Lion, Jamaica Bridge, Kenilworth Dancer, Single Man (pu) 11 ran. 2l, 17l, 29l, 1¼l, 2½l. J O'Neill at Penrith. Tote. £4.70; £1.10, £1.20, £2.30. DF. £2.50. Trio £4.40. CSF. £7.09.

1.50 (3m 110yd ch) 1, FOREST IVORY (A Maguire, 1-4 fav); 2, Cash Flow (P Carberry, 12-1). 3, Selatan (G Upton, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 50 Bourbon County (pu). 100 Weekend Worker (pu) 5 ran. NR: Ah Shush. Dist, 8l. D Nicholson at Temple Guiting. Tote £1.20; £1.10, £1.30. DF: £2.20. CSF: £3.81

2.20 (2m 1f hdle) 1, RIVERBANK ROSE (G Tormey, 8-1). 2, Caracol (T Dascombe, 7-2). 3, Brumon (S Wynne, 14-1). ALSO RAN. 7-4 fav Country Minstrel, 6 Glowing Path (5th). 10 Meg's Memory (4th), 12 Ho-Joe (pu), 16 United Front (6th). 8 ran. 9l, 2½l, 10l, 10l, 20l. W Clay at Fulford. Tote £7.00; £1.60, £1.90, £2.50. DF £19.00. CSF £32.85. Tricast: £351.44

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

12.10 (7f) 1, Mustang (Dale Gibson, 7-1); 2, Trojan Hero (3-1 fav). 3, Resist The Force (6-1) 13 ran. ¾l, 4l. C Thornton. Tote: £8.20; £1.90, £2.30, £1.90. DF £11.40. Trio: £35.70. CSF £24.39. Tricast £131.03

12.40 (7f) 1, Lift The Offer (P Dobbs, 4-9 fav); 2, Out Like Magic (16-1); 3, Chi-Lin (16-1) 10 ran. ¾l, 3½l. R Hannon. Tote: £1.40; £1.10, £2.60, £2.80. DF: £7.80. Trio £45.30. CSF: £10.62.

1.10 (5f) 1, Classy Cleo (A McCarthy, 4-1). 2, Sun Dancing (7-2 jt-fav). 3, Private Seal (14-1). Happy Days Again 7-2 jt-fav. 9 ran. NR Carol Singer. 1¼l, 3l. P Evans. Tote: £3.30; £1.70, £1.60, £2.80. DF. £6.60. Trio: £46.30. CSF: £16.39. Tricast: £159.89

1.40 (1m 2f) 1, Chairmans Choice (W Ryan, 11-2). 2, Without Friends (9-1). 3, Father Dan (5-2 fav) 14 ran. 6l, 1¾l. A Jarvis. Tote £7.20; £2.60, £4.10, £1.40. DF £38.20. Trio £53.40. CSF. £50.31.

2.10 (6f) 1, Apollo Red (Candy Morris, 10-1). 2, Speedy Classic (7-1); 3, Scissor Ridge (9-1). Robo Magic 7-2 fav. 13 ran. NR: Lord Sky. Hd, 1½l. G L Moore. Tote: £9.30; £2.30, £3.00, £3.10. DF: £18.00. Trio £170.70. CSF: £65.93. Tricast: £461.40

2.40 (7f) 1, Churchill's Shadow (C Lowther, 4-1). 2, Badnnath (12-1); 3, Witchfinder (11-4 fav) 12 ran. 2l, 1¼l. B Pearce. Tote. £7.60; £2.10, £4.90, £2.00. DF £90.20. Trio £135.80. CSF £51.27. Tricast. £140.03

3.10 (1m 2f) 1, Mystagogue (P Dobbs, 7-2). 2, Zada (5-1), 3, Casino Ace (8-11 fav) 7 ran. NR Younico. ½l, 3l. R Hannon. Tote £3.70; £1.40, £3.00. DF £14.50. CSF £21.96.

3.40 (1m 4f) 1, Another Monk (Mr R Guest, 6-4 fav). 2, Vrennan (14-1). 3, Don't Drop Bombs (9-1). 4, Danka (25-1). 17 ran. NR: Precious Wonder. 2½l, 3l. R Ingram. Tote: £2.10; £1.10, £6.30, £1.90, £4.30. DF: £24.70. Trio £38.70. CSF £24.99. Tricast. £166.59.

Placepot: £37.30.

Quadpot: £20.30.

☐ Sister Rosza, backed from 7-1 down to 3-1, won the Morris Nicholson Cartwright Handicap Chase at Bangor yesterday. Leading before the second last, she strode clear for a 15-length success.

Farrant misses Haydock

RODNEY FARRANT, who gave up his final two rides at Newbury yesterday, has decided to give up his mounts at Haydock today. Farrant aggravated an old injury on Wednesday and did not ride at Taunton yesterday, but was expected to be fit for Newbury. However, after competing in the first race, he gave up his remaining mounts.

"Rodney rode in the first race but was feeling uncomfortable and decided not to ride any more today and also miss tomorrow," the jockey's agent, Graeme James, said yesterday. He should be 100 per cent by early next week."

The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Tom Whitelaw, of Bearsden in Scotland

هكذا من الاصل

AC

AC Cobra MKIV (89T) Midnight Blue, Tan Leather. 4,300 miles. Full SVO Conversion (340 BHP). Perfect condition with Fantastic History. £43,750 GRAYPAUL: 01509 232233

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96N Spider 2.0 T.Spark Lusso Rosso Corsa, Black Lthr, Air Cond, ABS, Air Bags, CD, 16" Alloys 10,000mls £20995. Yarn olds Stratford 01789 294249

GTV LUSSO '96 P, Metallic Silver/Black leather, A/C, FSH, CD, 11,300 mls, Immaculate, £20,995 ono. Tel:0171 7229865(H)/ 568 4277(W)

GTV LUSSO 96P, Alpha red, blk lthr, A/C, 19K, 1 owner. £21K.ono. 01992 550750 (w).

GTV Lusso, 96P, Alfa Red/ Black leather, 10,000 miles, FSH, ext Alfa wty Oct 99, pristine, £20,500. Tel: 01244 538200

SPIDER, Jul 95, 2.0 Rosso Proteo, LHD, 17" Alys, CD, Tan Lthr Int, 18,500 mls. £18,950 ONO. 0171 3707140(AOH).

AMERICAN CARS

CHEVROLET TAHOE 4 door, '97 model. Black/Grey lthr. Fully loaded inc. factory wty. Private sale. £24,950. 01234 359023

ASTON MARTIN

DB7 Coupe Auto, Pentland Green, Dec 95, 32,000 miles, just serviced, CD, tracker, new tyres & new Alisey alloys. £59,950. Tel: 01865 862919. Private.

VIRAGE Man Coupe. Silver/ Blue hide. 13k mls. £49,995. May exchange earlier Aston, Rolls or Bentley. Tel: 01565 873289

ASTON MARTIN

V8 Volante, 1997 model with full G3 cosmetic factory body conversion. Beautiful dark blue metallic with cream lthr piped blue and blue hood. Aston Martin warranted with 9,000 mls. As new, our managing directors car. New vantage awaits therefore £105,000. Call Geof Coupland on 01189 321 489 (office hours) or 01494 881190 (eves/weekends.)

AUDI

2.8E Cabriolet, Automatic, Kingfisher blue, black leather, walnut, cd player, 39,000 miles, 94L, MOT, FASH. Exc cond. £19,950. Tel: 0956 378183.

A8 4.2 sport, '96 N, Ming blue, 17,000 mls, FSH, warranty, full spec, immaculate condition. £43,500 ONO. 0121 308 2288.

AUDI

A4 1.8 '96 N, 51K mls, FSH, 1 owner, red/beige. £13,850. 01603 613354/ 0836 325325.

A4 2.8 Quattro, 97P, air, FSH, 22k, ex cond. £26,400. 0836 578085/ 01934 876576 (off).

A8 4.2 SALOON M-reg. 27,500 mls, all extras, Green, A1 cond, £34,500. Tel:01483-208657

AUDI A8 2.6SE. Man. Sal '95 M reg. Ruby Red Met/Grey velour with Walnut trim. FSH. Choice of 2 Directors cars 1 @ 22K mls £14,500. 1 @ 42K mls £13,500. 01763 272567/ 01438 798880

CABRIOLET 2.8 1997 P, auto, 9,000 mls, brilliant yellow, black lthr, air, high spec. £30,500. 01189 464978.

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- 97P Audi A6 2.4 SE, Racing Green, Tiptronic Gearbox, 6,000 miles
- 97P Audi A4 1.8 Turbo Sport, Ming Blue, 8,000 miles, Leather, C/C, Alarm, CD, Arm Rest
- 95M Audi A4 1.8 SE, Emerald Green, 29,000 miles
- 96P Audi A4 1.8 SE Auto, Aluminium Silver, 3,500 miles, Remote locking and Walnut Trim
- 94L Audi 100 2.8 Quattro Estate, Emerald Green, 37,000 miles,
- 94L Audi 100 2.0E Est., Tornado Red, 43,000 miles, Alloys, Sunroof
- 94M Audi 80 2.0 16V Estate SE, Indigo, 18,500 miles, 1 Owner
- 94L Audi 80 2.6E, Auto Est., Indigo, 42,000 miles, Walnut Trim
- 94M Audi 80 TDi Estate, Indigo Blue, 38,000 miles, Sunroof
- 94L Audi 80 2.0E, Saloon, Ruby Red, 31,000 miles, Sunroof

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- 95N Audi A4 1.8, Ragusa, 20,000 miles
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- 95M Audi 80 TDi Avant SE, Ragusa, 18,000 miles
- 97P Audi A4 TDi (110 bhp) Avant, Blue Pearl, 7,000 miles
- 97P Audi A4 1.8 SE Avant, Ming Blue, 4,000 miles
- 95N Audi S2 Avant quattro, Ruby, 11,000 miles
- 95N Audi Cabriolet 2.6, Byzanz, 15,000 miles
- 96P Audi Cabriolet 2.6, Ming Blue, 18,000 miles
- 97P Audi Cabriolet 2.6, Cactus, 4,000 miles
- 97R Audi A8 2.8 Sport, Ming Blue, 2,000 miles
- 97P Audi A8 4.2 quattro, Ruby, 11,000 miles

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94 (M)	Coupe 2.8 16v Aqua, csr, alloys	£12,995
92 (J)	Coupe 2.8E Indigo blue, leather, air/con, 17" alloys	£12,995
93 (L)	80 2.0 SE Estate Emerald green, csr, ew, alloys	£12,995
95 (M)	Coupe 2.0 16V Ruby red, alloys, abs, e/w	£11,995
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Power punch of a Mini reborn

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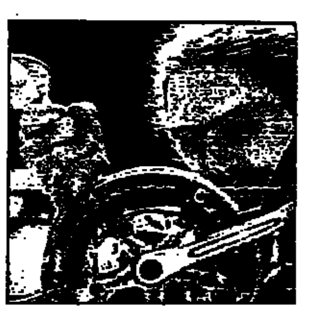

Quest to recycle any old bikes

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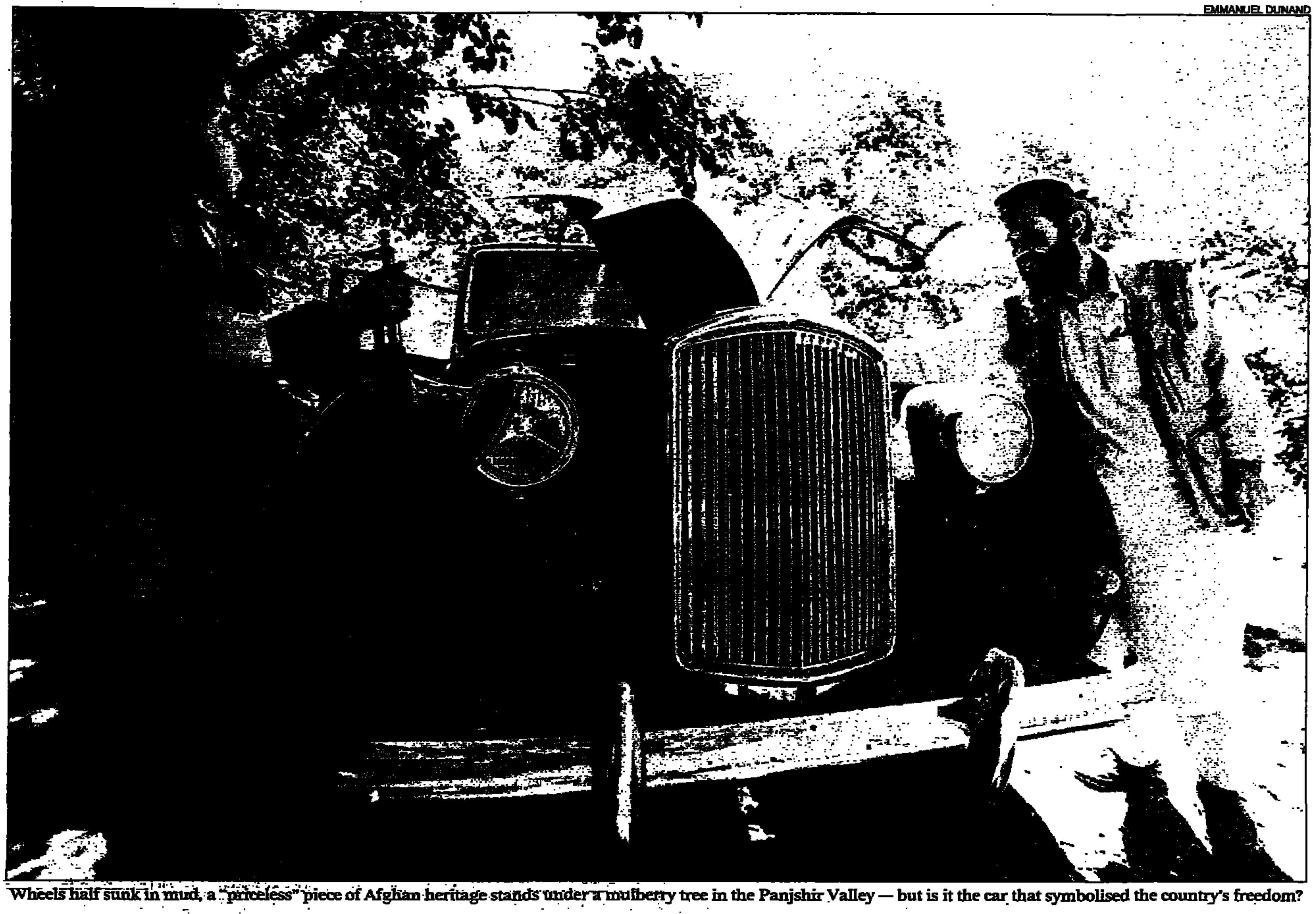
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 29 1997

A kingly gift lost in a war zone

EMMANUEL DUNAND



Wheels half sunk in mud, a "priceless" piece of Afghan heritage stands under a mulberry tree in the Panjshir Valley — but is it the car that symbolised the country's freedom?

Michael Dynes hunts the Rolls-Royce George V gave to the ruler of Afghanistan

We had set off in search of one of the great myths of Afghanistan. A Rolls-Royce, which George V reputedly gave to King Amanollah to mark the country's independence from Britain's sphere of influence in 1919, was rumoured to be hidden in the remote Panjshir Valley.

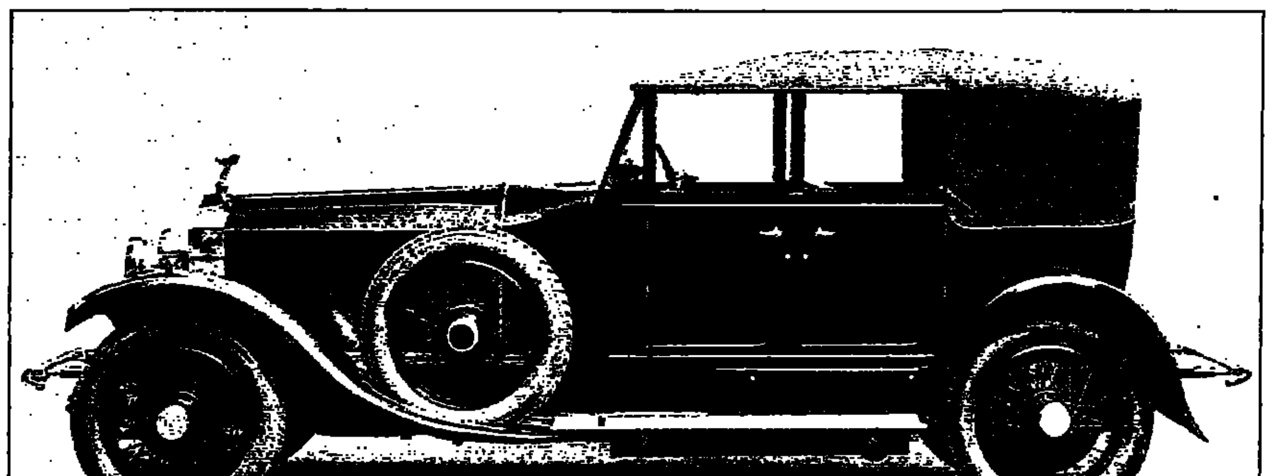
Bouncing about in an old Russian "jeep", whose rudimentary suspension had seen better days, we braced ourselves for what we knew would be a long and bruising journey in the blistering 47 degree heat up the narrow and precarious valley dirt road.

Our small group of one British reporter, a French photographer, a female stringer for Voice of America, a Tajik interpreter and a veteran Mujahidin driver who kept his Kalashnikov next to him in the door compartment, seemed oddly out of place.

Forty miles to the south, on the vast battlefield north of Kabul, wild-eyed Mujahidin fighters and fundamentalist Taleban militia men were preoccupied with their usual afternoon rocket duels. Daud Wahab, our Tajik translator, could not believe what we were doing. "There's a war going on, and what are we doing?" he kept muttering to himself, adding in his best upper-class English accent: "Looking for a bloody Rolls-Royce."

But this was no ordinary Rolls-Royce. For the people of this war-torn country it had come to symbolise their freedom from foreign domination at a time when a rag-tag army of Mujahidin fighters, led by Ahmed Shah Masood, the Tajik guerrilla chieftain, was trying to expel the Pakistani-backed Taleban militia from the capital.

During his coronation address, King Amanollah provoked war by declaring his country's "total independence" from Britain. A series of skirmishes followed between an ineffective Afghan army and an exhausted British Indian Army before a peace treaty recognising Afghanistan's independence was signed at Rawalpindi in August 1919.



A Rolls-Royce Phantom I with Barker cabriolet bodywork — what King Amanollah's vanished car should look like

George V gave King Amanollah the Rolls-Royce during his visit to London in 1928. Having returned to Afghanistan armed with radical ideas of educational reform and the emancipation of women, Amanollah outraged the reactionary mullahs, provoked a tribal revolt and was forced to flee Kabul in the Rolls-Royce in 1929.

Prized as a gift from one fighting nation to another, it has since been driven by every Afghan leader until the Soviet Union's lightning invasion in 1979, after which it was found a retirement home in the Kabul museum.

When the black-bearded Taleban zealots were on the threshold of capturing the capital in September 1996, Commander Masood took the precaution of loading the Rolls on to a lorry and spiriting it away to a secret destination. It has not been seen since.

Stopping for tea at Commander Masood's mud-walled house in the Panjshir Valley, Dr Abdullah, the Commander's spokesman, said that he knew where the car was hidden and would be happy to write a letter granting us authorisation to travel further up the valley to see it.

Again we set off in search of our grail. The further we went, the worse the dirt track became. Giant potholes, which only a four-wheel drive could negotiate, slowed us to a snail's pace. Our jeep balanced precariously on the narrow road which clung to the side of the mountain, while our mad Mujahidin driver played chicken with the rockfalls as they crashed on to the road from above.

Fifty miles up the valley, we caught our first glimpse of a stately car. Sitting forlornly under a mulberry tree in the village of Dashet-e-Raywat, its wheels half sunk into the mud, the dark green exterior and red leather interior appeared to be in good condition. There was no distinctive silver lady on the bonnet, and the wing mirrors had been removed. But headlights, tyres and wooden dashboard looked original. It only had 12,378 kilometres on the clock. We were told the engine worked perfectly, although it did not have a battery, so we were unable to check.

Posing for photographs, and beaming with pride, Commander Abdul Aziz Majraw, guardian of the "priceless" piece of Afghan heritage, went on at length about the history of the car and how Commander Masood intends to keep it hidden there "until Afghanistan is free again".

But it is the wrong car. Having noted down the body and chassis numbers, we later checked with the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust in Warwickshire. Anders Clausager, the trust's archivist, was adamant: "There can be no mistake. The body and chassis numbers tally exactly with our records. It's a four-litre Vanden Plas Princess exported to Afghanistan in 1962."

Clausager explained that because the basic styling of the Vanden Plas Princess had remained more or less unchanged since the 1940s, there had been a period in the 1970s when unscrupulous dealers had bought them up, fitted appropriate accessories and tried to pass them off as genuine Rolls-Royces.

In this case, however, "the vehicle had been exported new, and there is no sign of illegal conversion". Clausager added: "It would seem that, with the passage of time, this vehicle has become confused with another in Afghan memory."

Who knows what happend to Amanollah's Rolls-Royce? Was it destroyed in the murderous shelling of Kabul in 1992 when, having defeated the Soviet-backed regime of President Najibullah, the Mujahidin factions turned their guns on each other? Or is it still hidden in some forgotten mud hut in a remote part of this tortured land?

What is certain is that the vehicle Commander Masood and his fighters think is the embodiment of their country's independence is nothing of the sort. In Afghanistan's darkest age of bloodshed and waste, one of the last remaining symbols of the country's nationhood is a fake.

THE ROYAL CONNECTION

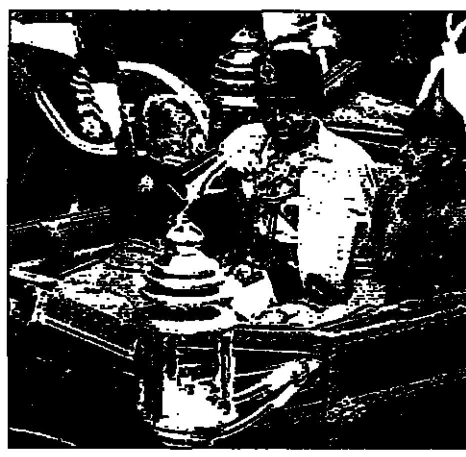
King Amanollah's enthusiasm for Rolls-Royces knew no bounds. In 1927 he bought a fleet of Phantom Is, a Barker saloon, a Barker laundalette and a Hooper tourer, so it was not surprising that he should take a trip to the company's Derby factory during his state visit the following year.

It appeared that Rolls-Royce had great hopes of converting the king's enthusiasm for its cars into lucrative orders for aero engines. Peter Baines, who looks after the the Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club archives, found several memos about the visit, one of which instructed sentries to keep under their wing various press representatives, including a man from *The Times*.

The company laid on an impressive motorcade, including a Silver Ghost armoured car with machinegun turret. But, said *The Times*, the one that took the king's eye was a super sports touring model in light blue and silver plate. He leapt into it and "Taking the wheel and raising his hat he shouted 'goodbye' and scattered the spectators by driving the car a yard or two forward".

A fourth Rolls-Royce destined for the king, a Phantom with a Barker cabriolet body, was shipped out to Afghanistan via Bombay on the *SS Mantua* on August 3, 1928.

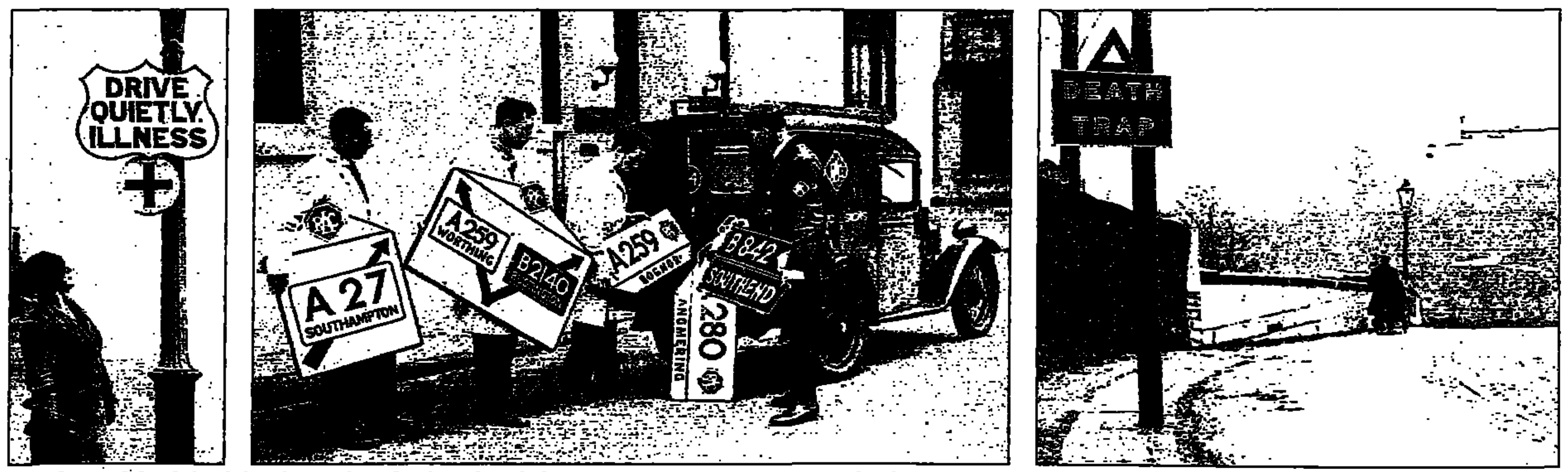
If any of the king's cars could be recovered with some proof of identity they would be worth well in excess of £50,000 at current auction prices. But their survival must be in considerable doubt. Recent photographs have shown a much later model Rolls-Royce, a 1939 Phantom III, being used for target practice by guerrillas near Kabul.



Stylish carriage: Amanollah rides with George V

Searching for a European sign language

Arthur Leathley explains why a group of foreigners may go astray this weekend



On the road: hush-hush in Birmingham in 1932, signs being sent out to guide Easter motorists in 1936, and a grim warning at Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, in 1930

Take pity if you spot a band of bemused foreigners scratching their heads while careering around our motorways and trunk roads this weekend. The hapless travellers are, like thousands of mystified visitors to Britain, trying to fathom the logic of a signposting system that has grown haphazardly over decades.

The difference this time is that the visitors might be able to do something about the forest of multi-coloured signs that confuse foreigners and even leave locals in a state of total bewilderment.

The seasoned motorists are recovering from the most exhaustive international investigation of road signs and road systems as part of a plan to harmonise signposting throughout European countries.

A 600-mile tour of England is the second stage of an eight-week trans-European mission organised by motoring organisations, including the AA. Mind you, the AA official who devised the tour for a German driver, Austrian observer and support team must have a sense of humour — or malice.

A web that includes some of the most baffling road systems has been spun for the unsuspecting tourists. St Albans, Stratford-upon-Avon, Manchester and Birmingham's ring road networks, Milton Keynes and Oxford are among the road layouts that the team will attempt to navigate their way through. In case they actually manage to fathom their way through, London has been laid on as the *pièce de resistance*.

The team has been set the task of negotiating the intricacies of east London, where nearly all signs point to Tilbury docks but few direct motorists to destinations they might actually wish to visit.

Perhaps a European approach to the problem is not such a bad thing. After all, the first properly organised system of signposts was the Roman use of "milliaries" which recorded each 1,000 paces along the straight routes linking the provinces of the empire. The modern British system was the result of government inquiry in 1933, although its work had to be thoroughly revised after the removal of so many signs in wartime for fear they might assist an invader.

The study of British roads will also focus attention on standards of road maintenance, surfacing, safety and lighting to pinpoint the best and worst examples of road layout and motoring advice, through signing, electronic information and radio traffic broadcasts. The European Union-funded project, which will take observers across 8,000 miles of motorways and major roads, is intended to bring the worst examples up to scratch.

Attempts to make signposting understandable to foreigners have been mired by international disputes over which system is the clearest and most efficient.

While signposting on Britain's motorway network is widely admired and frequently imitated, urban signing, especially in the capital, has been heavily criticised by UK motoring organisations. A study earlier this year suggested that 15,000 drivers are, at any single moment, lost on the streets of London.

The study made all the more baffling the decision by the Highways Agency to cancel a £20 million re-signing project, originally planned for the capital in the mid-1980s, to coincide with the completion of the M25.

PS: If you see the travellers this weekend, point them towards Harwich: they are due in Holland by Monday for the next stage of the tour.

The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Tom Whitelaw, of Bearsden in Scotland

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Most people would be too busy to notice the fashion for one-piece suits with arrows

Daylight robbery while they exchange convicts

I cannot understand all the fuss about Group 4 having to apologise for the fact that its guards transferred a prisoner from one van to another at a motorway services area on the M6 near Preston. Service areas and, in particular, petrol stations are ideal for this kind of delicate operation, as ordinary customers who run the gamut of closed circuit television and toughened glass at most petrol stations will testify.

Try visiting a garage forecourt at night. The ones which double as hypermarkets are not so bad, for there is not much point a garage selling more groceries than Tesco and Sainsbury put together if the place is to be shut down when darkness falls. But even some of these outlets do not allow customers into the shop itself at night, so one is often held up by the person in front shouting what sounds like a monthly grocery order through the grille that separates the cashier from the customers.

Similar problems can arise at garages which are more modest in their claims in that they do not sell everything from designer jeans to flat-pack kitchen units. The door to the area which houses the cashier is firmly locked as soon as the sun goes down, which at this time of year is just after lunch. This means that business has to be transacted through the aforementioned window, which is usually circular and carries all the signs of being bullet-proof. This type of glass is impervious to any sound short of a jet engine or a mobile discotheque, so the window is fitted with some basic amplification equipment.

This enables customer and cashier to attempt to hold a conversation, in which the customer says "Number four petrol and a Mars bar, please", but the cashier hears something resembling a car radio searching the frequency range between two FM stations. After arm-waving sufficient to exhaust Sir Simon Rattle, the customer pays for someone else's petrol and receives 20 of the cigarettes he gave up last week.

The chances of a prisoner exchange carried out in these circumstances posing any security risk is minimal. Most of the other people around would be too busy coping with their own problems to notice the sudden development of a local fashion for one-piece suits with arrows on them.

Of course the communications shortcomings of the garage's security grille could result in a harmless youth on work experience as a cashier doing 20 years in Pentonville while a serial bank robber found himself dishing out car wash tokens to motorists, but what system is perfect?

Another site Group 4 should add to their list of prisoner swap facilities is the car park at your average Third Division football ground. That is another place usually devoid of people, even — no, especially — on a Saturday afternoon. Sunday mornings can be tricky, as that is the time when football ground car parks house their most lucrative activity, the car boot sale. It would be a pity if prisoner number 3669441 got himself exchanged for a 1950s standard lamp (shade missing).

Bus lanes are another prime site for prisoner exchanges, with the bonus that drivers fuming in the one lane that has been left to cars will have something to entertain them while they sit in the gridlock caused by the fact that the inside lane has been given over to buses.

So we should not get too alarmed at prisoners appearing in service areas and petrol stations. The restaurant areas are presumably off-limits, but I doubt that prisoners could afford the prices: on one motorway recently a steak and kidney pie and some coffee cost me £8.10. Not all criminals are in the car park.

MY COLLEAGUE Kevin Eason produced a breath of fresh air, so to speak, this week when he reported on research showing that drivers are breathing in up to three times as many toxic exhaust fumes from their cars as are cyclists and pedestrians. The nearer the kerb people are the more protected they are from exhaust pollution, which increases near the centre of roads.

I have never been convinced by the argument that drivers are cocooned from pollution by well-insulated cars, because heating and ventilation systems will always introduce pollution to the cab. Clearly this makes the case for reduced exhaust emissions even stronger, and drivers who selfishly thought they were safe will have to think again. And join the campaign.

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard

ALBAN DONOHOE

Stuart Mickleburgh and Downton Club Sport: "refined enough to plod round town and still create a stir"

Downton reborn in a mighty Mini

Eve-Ann Prentice

enters memory lane

Every time I parked this car, men of a certain age would materialise seemingly from nowhere, crouch down and peer almost misty-eyed at tyres, wheel arches and trim. Many looked wistful as they caressed the bodywork, as if they had caught a glimpse of happier days gone by.

When you accelerate, the car growls through the gears, splitting the air with sounds more akin to off-road rallying than pootling down to the supermarket. The last time I saw a car like it was 1971, when the local teenage car mechanic used to perform midnight wheelies in a car park in Wisbech while mini-skirted girls and would-be James Deans looked on in grudging admiration..

The car which belonged to the now-middle aged mechanic was a Mini Cooper S; the vehicle which brought back memories of it is an even more souped-up Mini, the Downton Club Sport 1.3i, a highly-tuned, limited edition version of the cars turned out in the 1960s by the Downton engineering company which was founded 50 years ago.

Downton, which tuned Bentleys and Bugattis as well as supplied engines and cylinder heads to BMC works Minis, closed in 1974 but the rights to the company were bought by brothers Stuart and Paul Mickleburgh in 1993. Operating out of Mulbarton, Norfolk, they enlisted the help of Bryan Slark, an original Downton engineer, to provide a Downton rebuilt engine for the 1.3i Mini.

The result is a toy-sized powerhouse that can accelerate from 0-60 in under nine seconds, sticks to corners as if on rails and makes you feel like a kid again. It has been built to be tough and safe, with rear anti-roll bar, high performance brake pads and shoes, and height-adjustable suspension.

The Mini, as in days of yore, is nothing if not minimalist inside. You forget how we have become accustomed to luxurious seats, sound systems and padded dashboards. But the Club World does not even have a radio and the adherence to 1960s-style means no head restraints — which may seem a sad lack of safety equipment, never mind comfort, to some.

With no seats in the rear and bucket seats in front, motorway driving can be uncomfortable to anyone with anything but teen-slim hips. The demonstration model was also showing some signs of wear: the instrument lights were not working, which made a night drive more stressful than it might have been, and one of the two leather straps holding down the carbon fibre bonnet was so perished it fell apart the first time I tried to unbuckle it to look at the engine. A panel-beater friend came to the rescue with a piece of wire.

The Mickleburgh brothers say this car is "designed to appeal to the more enthusiastic driver through its performance . . . it is also refined enough to plod around town all day and still create a stir".

About 50 have already been sold to a Japanese company, Dinky Classic, but be warned — nostalgia comes at a price: the Downton Mini Club Sport costs between £10,450 and £12,711.

For information call Downton Engineering Works on 01508 571300.

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993 Carrera S4, 1996(N) LHD. red, black leather, 25,000km, special extras. £45,000. Tel: 0831 528800, 0802 895335.

993 CARRERA Coupe Tiptronic S. 96'N, 9k, Midnight/Grey, 18" Alloys, air con, 6 CD changer FPSH, £57,250 0181 785 4761

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BOXSTER Nov 97, Silver, Full leather, air con, sport pack, 17"alloys, traction control, CD, £66,000. 0181 6477285.

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On pages 48 & 49

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911 AEB
19 AF
10 AFB
444 AG
321 AJ
47 AK
88 AL
60 AM
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25 AP
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83 CKY
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117 BB
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AJG 716
AJN 17
2 AJL
AJP 817
AJT 137
33 AK
11 AKB
48 AL
565 ALD
19 ALE
275 ALG
738 ALR
L2 AMB
11 AMS
480 AMW
323 ANN
P1 ANS
41 ANT
22 AP
87 APB
555 APC
123 APM
525 APW
851 ARB
88 ASH
1 ASJ
ASW 1
13 AT
A1 ATC
30 AV
4100 AW
AWL 42
21 AY
BA 5775
BAR 854
3 BC
55 BCH
1 BCP
11 BOH
BF 11
1 BHB
123 BJ
861 BJH
BJL 59
BJN 19
BJP 10
75 BL
10 BM
1 BMR
134 BMW
1 BRG
70 BS
18 BSG
1 BT
BW 2
BZ 3911
CAB 869
871 CAM
CAR 322
CAW 915
525 CAY
15 CD
CDL 15
1 CFS
1 CHM
CJ 80
27 CJD
84 CJH
CJL 941
CJR 418
CJS 528
CJT 60
44 CJW
7 CKB
CKL 1
CKS 142
CL 1
CLH 480
15 CM
844 CMJ
844 COD
5 COW
534 COX
88 CP
CPH 473
40 CPW
111 CR
17 CS
1 CSP
122 CTB
CF 3083
287 DAB
DAB 21
21 DAT
70 DB
DBL 100
1 DBR
DCM 295
888 DH
DHB 453
DJ 133
DJB 7
DJG 688
DJS 8
200 DK
DLN 996
33 DLT
17 DM
857 DMB
738 DMH
15 DMR
2 DN
24 DOC
391 DON
DPB 414
40 DR
480 DRH
111 DRS
1 DRT
DS 21
DSW 38
DTL 9
2582 DW
EAT 721
EC 32
11 EH
EJG 3
25 EW
1 FAU
200 FB
FBS 1
22 FC
18 FEB
98 FJB
FJT 1
320 FLY
FM 19
FS 6
5 FTB
GA 1
79 GAB
5 GAS
55 GB
4 GBS
33 GDM
N1 GEL
GEN 622
1 GHM
GJC 15
77 GJS
22 GL
GMH 1
123 GS
83 GTB
GW 80
55 HA
1 HAW
44 HC
HJL 27
45 HRB
IT 7
999 JA
35 JAC
999 JAG
21 JAK
100 JAM
17 JAK
JAP 282
10 JAY
JB 41
8 JBM
B5 JBG
JC 1430
JCA 22
JCH 444
70 JD
4 JDB
3 JDH
JEB 42
21 JET
JF 4
2 JFS
42 JGP
255 JH
JHT 444
222 JJ
9 JL
JLB 85
JLC 199
65 JM
JMB 1
JMW 8
JNH 52
JOY 867
69 JP
JPB 8
38 JPC
1 JPS
36 JR
4 JRH
82 JS
1 JSM
16 JT
JTB 67
8 JW
3 JWS
5 KAB
82 KAL
B11 KAS
KB 8
KBW 7
1 KCD
KDJ 67
KJL 888
KLW 32
67 KM
7 KPC
6 KPL
333 KS
KST 1
90 LAB
LAH 125
LAW 26
LAY 695
82 LB
LBW 1
89 LC
1 LCP
LEE 77
8 LES
80 LF
87 LJB
69 LMB
LMS 415
LNB 50
1 LNB
LOU 579
55 LP
1 LPS
30 LR
1 LSB
LTS 2
14 LYN
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77 MAT
MB 48
4123 MC
MCB 486
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MEL 887
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MJB 130
MJC 328
1 MJD
MJR 100
MLS 5
2 MM
MOR 42
795 MPB
MS 50
55 MSL
1 MST
MTR 10
MUM 502
189 MW
MWC 24
4 N
NAC 43
NAS 15
70 NB
NBC 8
79 NF
40 NH
NMP 20
NOT 46
5 NOV
NRD 26
9 NS
8 OAT
111 OG
111 PAF
66 PAM
23 PAT
PAW 972
1 PBS
PBW 101
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5 PCS
PD 279
PEH 1
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POL 10
27 PH
72 PHW
PJ 16
PJM 15
774 PL
PLC 17
70 PMB
PMB 6
PMJ 65
POW 40
PS 3161
PSR 11
100 PW
RAB 39
10 RAF
1 RAH
123 RAJ
RAL 226
RAW 481
RAS 10
RAT 19
55 RB
3 RBA
1 RBD
11 RBP
RBS 2
35 RC
RCD 725
RCL 44
RCW 3
RDA 4
9 RED
21 REG
REM 5
RH 205
RJA 555
84 RJS
RJT 344
RLC 666
RLD 11
RLM 68
35 RM
RMW 906
ROB 477
35 ROY
12 RP
1 RPA
RPM 7
RPW 145
23 RR
16 RB
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RTS 332
SA 5
SAM 771
SB 800
SBH 68
1 SBR
SC 8106
SCR 50
SD 50
2 SDB
SDW 5
SFL 6
SH 17
2 SJ
SJD 825
540 SJH
SJL 29
SJM 19
1 SLJ
SLY 4
444 SM
SMC 825
123 SN
SPA 34
911 SPG
SPM 95
1 SRF
47 STD
24 SUE
11 TAB
32 TAL
TC 6879
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C 8609	2,000	600 GJH	3,200	MG NSA	800	6666 SM	5,000
458 CAC	1,400	GOW 257	1,000	MH 270	4,400	749 SMD	1,800
50 CLM	2,800	H4 RLD-	1,000	MMV 99	1,500	8 TES	2,800
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DBZ 46	1,500	HAZ 850	1,000	94 MX	1,750	252 TMA	1,000
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DD 3490	1,800	HIL 23	POA	(MARK CROSS)		UF 4	3,800
365 DEL	1,600	HO 9051	800	NN 4460	1,300	GI USA	2,500
529 DMD	2,000	JEC 689X	400	D777 PAT	800	VER 558	1,250
DS 4	15,000	JB 13	1,500	PCS 68	2,800	(VERNON/VERA)	
DS 9838	1,800	(NOT JB 13)		PIB 30	POA	WA 2160	1,400
5347 DW	2,000	JIL 34	POA	II PJF	3,800	WD 82	2,000
984 ECR	800	JIW 19	1,600	PN 7874	1,800	WJN 58	1,450
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C180
HUI 5198
OIL 5219
OIL 5220
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MAZ 6823
RAZ 8876
VJI 1941
C180
ALZ 1870
BA 7032
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*UDZ 153
C250
*FBZ 987
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DXI 1983
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*VDZ 410
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*YIB 880
*YXI 666
C220
AAZ 543
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MIL 1629
MXI 289
NIL 7865
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*PXI 565
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RDZ 510
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TAZ 2001
TAZ 2002
*TDZ 182
VDI 282
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XIA 683
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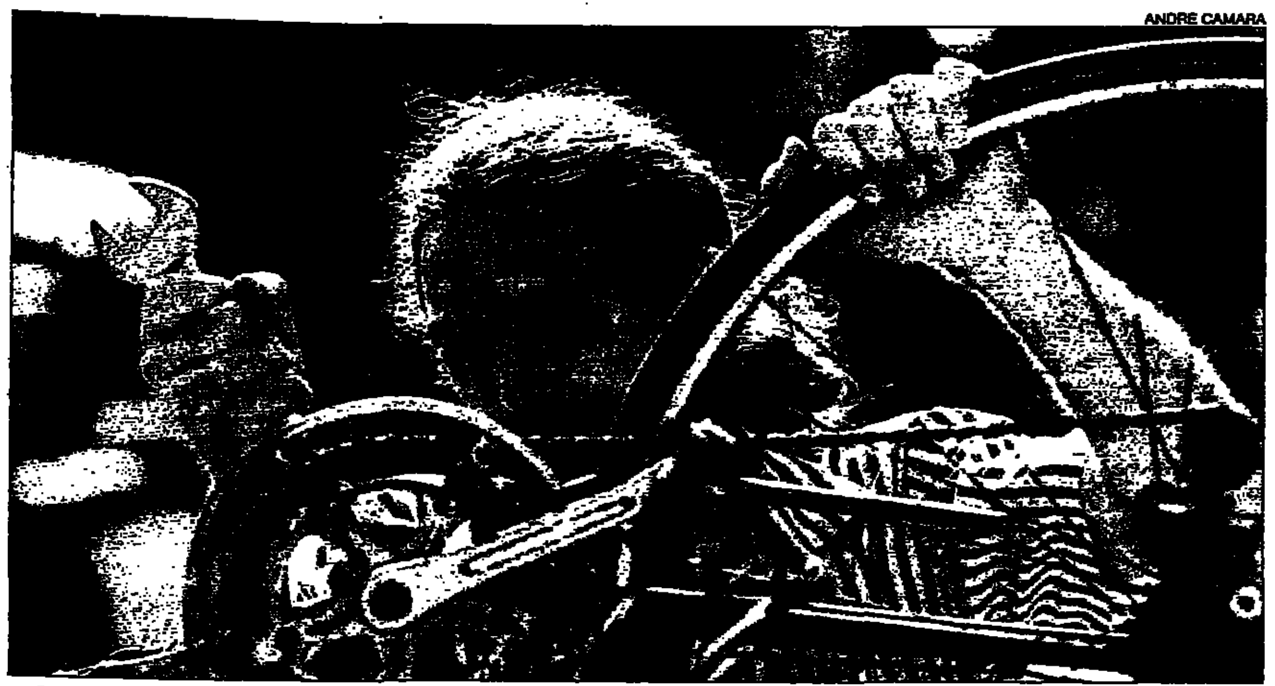
Spokesman for a small island

Morag Preston meets the man looking for old bikes to get Haiti on the move again

ANDRE CAMARA



Merlin Matthews: "If Haiti's political system goes pear-shaped, at least we will have left them with new skills"

Merlin Matthews has a two-wheeled mission. Driven by an environmentally-friendly dream, he wants to make the bicycle a viable means of transport in Haiti — the poorest country in the Western hemisphere.

The 6ft 2ins cyclist rides under the name of Dr Bike. Dressed in flower-power shorts and sandals he earned his nickname as head of the Bike Club at the London School of Economics. In exchange for a 50p membership fee, he and his team would repair penniless students' bikes. In return for a beer, Matthews would give classes on bike maintenance.

Now he wants to round up as many unwanted bikes in the UK as he can get, ship them to Haiti and sell them for a nominal sum. His aim is to set up a string of workshops on the Caribbean island where locals can borrow tools and learn how to repair their own bikes. "Haiti has a democracy for the first time, and is ripe for progress," he says. "If the political system goes pear-shaped, at least we will have left them with new skills."

"Re-Cycle" received charitable status in July. Matthews, 24, hit on the idea after a meeting with Jo Dufort, a Haitian-born student at LSE, who now works for the charity on the island. Two years ago, he visited Haiti for the first time and saw for himself the problems facing a country where 80 per cent of the population is unemployed. It suffers from a severe drought and soil erosion is a serious threat. But, due to a long series of dictators, the island has received little aid.

Lack of transport is a long-term problem. Islanders spend four hours on average travelling to work on their fields or into town. Collecting water, wood, and food is time-consuming, while transporting them can be cumbersome. The roads are potholed and only the élite own cars. Bicycles, most of them stolen from Florida, are highly sought-after status symbols.

Schools and hospitals are high on the charity's list of recipients. "Demand is going to far outstrip supply, so we need some kind of rationing," says Matthews. "We need to make sure that the bikes go to those who need them, not free-wheelers."

To get the project off the ground, "Re-Cycle" will initially work alongside The Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, an American group carrying out a similar scheme in Haiti. Funding will rely heavily on donations in kind. Some supermarkets have agreed to act as central distribution points, and surplus space on ships and containers already going to Haiti will be used to transport the bikes.

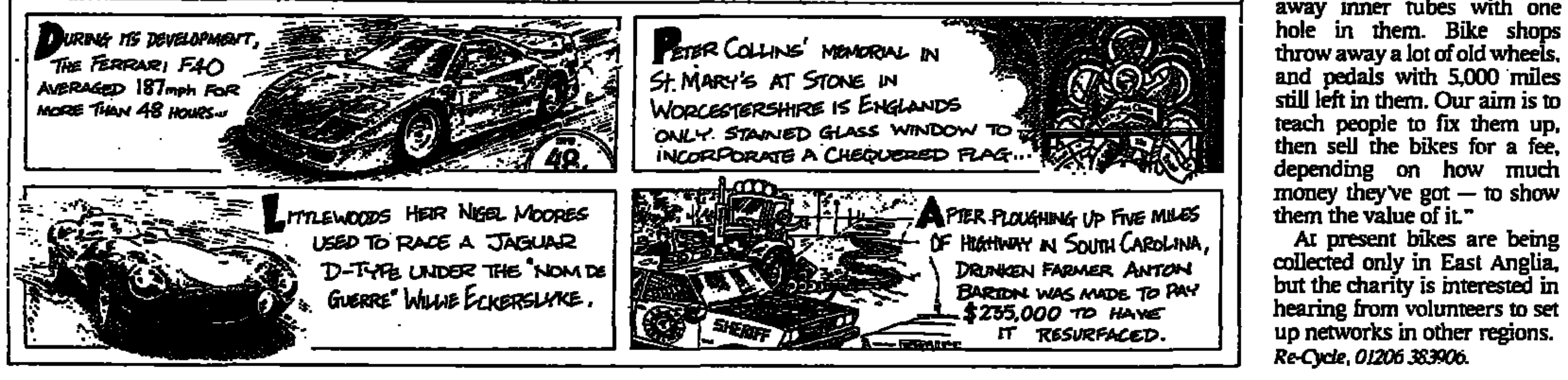
"The difficult bit is the shipping and storing — the easy bit is getting our hands on the bikes," says Matthews. "Fashion changes so quickly in the bike world that thousands are thrown away."

The plan is that the bikes will be repaired in Haiti. "The labour cost of fixing some bikes is prohibitive in the UK, but viable in Haiti," says Matthews, who lives in West Mersea, Essex. "People throw away inner tubes with one hole in them. Bike shops throw away a lot of old wheels, and pedals with 5,000 miles still left in them. Our aim is to teach people to fix them up, then sell the bikes for a fee, depending on how much money they've got — to show them the value of it."

At present bikes are being collected only in East Anglia, but the charity is interested in hearing from volunteers to set up networks in other regions.

Re-Cycle, 01206 383906.

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans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SHERIFF

Christian Dymond on a revolutionary water cycle

Pedal your own canal

A pedal-powered canal and river boat has triggered "huge interest" among manufacturers after its launch at the National Waterways Festival at Henley-on-Thames.

The two berth cabin cruiser is powered by two "seacycle" units, and at a constant pedalling rate of 50rpm, two people can manage 3-4mph. Hence the name, *Escargot*.

The Environment Agency, which owns the boat, hopes it will promote the idea of using environmentally-friendly craft on Britain's waterways. Plans and building instructions for *Escargot* are on sale at £50 a set.

The 18ft 6ins long boat weighs just under three quarters of a ton and is made of a marine plywood skin on a softwood frame, bonded and coated with epoxy resin. Orginally designed by Seattle-based naval architect, Philip Thiel, the UK version was built over a period of ten weeks earlier this year by Southampton boat builder Colin Jones for about £12,000.

Low energy lighting is powered by a 12-volt battery, charged by a solar panel. Plans are being explored for the installation of a larger solar panel to charge three or four 12-volt batteries and provide enough energy to run an electric outboard motor for eight hours.

"*Escargot* was designed as a DIY project, so can be built by amateurs from detailed plans. You don't need the skills of a specialist shipwright. The other advantage is that it can be towed behind the family car like a caravan," says Mr Jones.

He took the boat for two miles of trials on the River Itchen earlier this year, accompanied by Jon Sims, a writer for *Waterways World*, who had spotted news of Thiel's design in the specialist waterways magazine six years ago.

"*Escargot* looks extremely professional and behaves very well. The gearing on the pedals, though, needs to be changed to make it less effort on the legs," he says.

The operators sit on two saddles in the stern well of the boat — one person can also drive it — and their pedalling motion drives the propellor.

After river trials, the *Escargot* was taken by road to the West Midlands then pedalled down the canal system from Dudley to Henley for the Festival. Thirty volunteeers from the Waterways Recovery Group, the voluntary organisation which restores and repairs derelict canals, took two weeks to pedal the 160 miles, which included 120 locks.

"It was like cycling up a slight hill all the time, so our legs felt a bit tired and one girl had blisters on her bottom, but it's certainly a cheap way of getting around," says Sue Burchett, who organised the volunteers.

The Environment Agency, which took on the responsibilities of the old National Rivers Authority, says *Escargot* meets the twin objectives of silent running and the use of sustainable energy sources. The fact that the boat creates minimal wash because of her weight and shallow draught is welcome too; excessive wash can erode canal and river banks.

Inland boating attracts a sizeable number of people in this country: 44,000 hold licences from the Environment Agency for the 500-600 miles of navigable rivers which the agency manages while nearly 30,000 hold licences from British Waterways for the 2,000 miles of canals under its control. Many more have licences from other navigation authorities.

For building instructions of Escargot contact Jon Sims on 01703 732868 (evenings only).

CHRIS BALCOMBE

Silent running and sustainable energy: Jon Sims, left, and Colin Jones on the *Escargot*

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96P Golf GTI 8V 5dr. Storm Grey, s/seats, aircon, abs, airbag, e/roof, ew4, cdl, edm, obc, tints, alloys, 8,300mls £15,995

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97P POLO 1.4 CL, Windsor Blue, 12K, Sunroof
97P POLO 1.4 CL, Auto, Flash red, 12K
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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	137.17	146.17	-2.05	
Do NAV to Dec 19	136.83	136.83		
UK Equity Safeguard	108.04	115.51	-1.16	2.47
Do NAV to Sep 19	106.93	106.93		
Cash	953.93	956.70	+1.00	5.75
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	351.90	374.40†	-3.60	1.79
UK Small Cos	78.37	83.70†	-0.44	0.49
FTSE 250 Index	96.39	102.97	+0.09	2.11
Geared UK Index	2157.02	2277.10	-69.00	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	80.81	83.48	+0.09	
Monthly Inc	40.93	43.81†	-0.15	8.74
International Funds				
American Gen	285.10	301.70†	+0.30	
American Strat	246.75	263.89	-9.27	
JG US Index	2253.90	2374.81	-4.00	4.00
European Gen	315.00	333.20	-3.70	
European Strat	134.31	142.64	-1.33	
Japan Gen	105.50	111.70†	-5.10	
Asia Pacific	67.57	72.01†	-0.36	
Pacific Strat	108.25	115.77	-0.85	
Greater China	197.44	211.17	10.06	
Latin America	103.68	110.88	+5.88	
Intl Growth	161.45	172.66	-0.99	
Balanced Exempt	151.30	158.80	+5.80	
Global Strategy	47.18	50.45	-0.71	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	804.40	855.70	-7.00	2.65
General Inc	656.60	697.40	-5.70	2.65
UK Growth Acc	556.70	592.30	-4.79	2.53
UK Growth Inc	351.90	374.30	-3.00	2.53
Higher Inc Acc #	*1023.00*	*1088.00*	*-5.00*	*4.87*
Higher Inc Inc #	525.30	558.80	-2.80	4.67
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	229.00	241.90	+0.20	5.70
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	95.36	100.70	+0.10	5.70
Nth America	412.80	439.10	-6.80	
Europe	426.20	453.40	-3.80	0.62
Brit Excell	111.10	118.10	-0.60	2.36
Brit Fndmtls Acc	140.80	149.70	-1.10	4.65
Brit Fndmtls Inc	90.28	96.04	-0.71	4.65
Global Opps	107.10	113.90	-0.70	0.31
Balanced Acc	70.59	75.09	-0.49	2.55
Balanced Inc	64.57	68.69	-0.46	2.56
Japan Acc	34.20	36.38	-0.50	
Pac Basin Acc	277.90	295.60	-0.40	1.61
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	141.90	150.60	+0.40	6.06
High Inc Equity	212.10	226.80†	-2.70	4.44
Worldwide Bond	266.70	282.90†	+1.60	3.50
American Growth	505.90	539.90	-1.10	0.31
Asian Pacific	227.30	243.10	-2.60	0.57
Assets & Earnings	329.10	352.00†	-2.40	2.66
Euro Capital Acc	231.40	247.50	-2.90	0.81
Extra Inc	42.53	45.24†	-0.28	9.20
General	305.20	324.70	-2.50	3.02
Global Opps	73.87	78.59	-0.31	0.41
Japan	75.51	80.76	-2.33	
Managed Inc	50.80	54.04†	-0.34	4.16
Mastertrust	178.50	190.90	-1.00	1.16
US Emerging Cos	210.00	224.80	-3.40	
Ethical	89.45	95.16	+0.33	1.92
International	135.78	144.40	-1.60	0.60
Dividend & Growth	78.80	83.82	-0.96	4.17
Global Gwth & Sec	77.90	83.19	+0.42	2.43
Latin America	76.58	81.47	+3.54	0.82
Capital Reserve	152.60	152.70	+0.10	4.56
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
N&P UK Growth	107.00	113.80	-0.80	2.04
Equity Income #	150.70	160.30	-0.50	3.97
Extra Income #	*292.40*	*310.60*	*-0.70*	*4.79*
Smaller Cos	100.60	107.00	-1.20	2.08
International	124.00	131.90†	-0.90	2.28
ABERDEEN UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
American	77.95	80.68†	-0.52	
Emerging Mkts	61.47	64.02	+0.93	
European	162.22	169.71	-1.24	
Extra Income #	56.98	59.97	+0.77	5.22
Far East Emg Ecn	82.59	86.61	+0.51	0.88
Fixed Interest #	27.74	28.84†	+0.09	8.06
Fund Inv Tst #	176.94	185.75†	+0.16	9.84
Japan	143.67	149.25	-1.68	
Latin American	66.57	69.91	+3.97	0.20
Pacific	57.22	60.06†	-0.64	0.31
Property	91.74	96.31	+1.33	1.24
UK Emerging Cos	71.43	77.17	+0.30	0.86
UK Growth	66.87	69.65†	+0.18	1.30
Aber World Port #	86.79	91.35	-0.48	2.58
Ethical	83.72	87.08	-1.66	0.94
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.87	50.87	+0.03	7.09
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2481.00	2585.00	-8.00	
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5888				
Rasco Property #	111.00	118.00		4.80
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	104.82	111.22	-0.42	1.79
Income Builder Inc	95.43	101.52	-0.06	3.19
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Cntrctd Out Pens	133.10	138.20		
Foundtn Persl Pens	78.88	81.96	+0.21	
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
American Sm Cos	440.10	468.00	+2.50	
Bond	124.00	130.30†	+0.10	6.43
Brit Smlr Cos	113.40	120.60	-0.40	1.90
Europe	336.10	358.90†	-6.30	
Euro Smlr Cos	119.50	127.20†	-0.30	0.31
High Income #	67.19	71.48†	-0.52	5.45
Income	398.00	423.40	-1.20	4.01
Japan	272.20	288.60†	-5.40	
Latin American	102.30	108.80	+5.30	
Pacific	81.98	87.21	-0.06	1.21
UK Smlr Cos	63.55	67.61	-0.46	1.29
Japanese Sm Cos	461.80	476.60	-17.00	
Mngd Fd	230.00	244.10†	-1.40	2.44
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 489 8673				
Brit & Ovrsas	*414.80*	*438.70*	*+8.50*	*0.80*
Capital Gwth	155.50	164.50	+2.50	2.56
Wwide Opps	228.60	241.80	+5.10	0.91
BARCLAYS FUNDS LTD				
Customer Help Desk 0181 522 4000				
Income Funds				
Cash	100.90	100.90	+0.10	6.59
Cash Acc	130.90	130.90	+0.20	6.59
Income #	681.50	727.00	-5.20	4.12
Income Builder #	*78.73*	*83.84*	*-0.39*	*4.72*
Intl Income	81.40	86.60	-0.79	1.47
Balanced Funds				
Exempt	100.70	107.20†	-1.20	2.33
500	511.20	549.70	-2.10	2.11
General	385.30	412.10	-3.90	1.81
Property	263.40	282.60†	-6.70	5.62
Trustee	271.70	289.10	-3.20	1.72
Growth Funds - UK				
Capital	173.20	184.30	-1.60	1.79
FTSE 100	*124.30*	*132.00†*	*-2.00*	*1.85*
Growth Acc	540.20	574.70	-8.70	1.59
Smaller Cos	60.06	64.06	-0.44	2.28
Smaller Cos Acc	72.33	77.16	-0.53	2.28
Growth Funds - Overseas				
America	226.50	239.48†	+0.70	0.03
American Growth	157.10	166.50	+1.10	
Japan	96.66	102.30	-2.00	
Japan Acc	97.78	103.30	-2.10	
Japan Spec Sits	44.27	46.89	-7.46	
Worldwide	206.90	219.80	-1.90	0.86
Barclays Investment Portfolios				
Managed Income	48.51	50.14	+0.07	7.10
Mgd Gwth & Inc #	45.97	48.80	-0.23	4.50
Managed Growth	45.00	48.06	-0.43	0.50
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	175.90	185.70	+0.40	
Amer Smlr Cos	166.60	176.60	-2.60	
Eastern	173.90	186.60	-0.30	0.30
Equity Income #	120.00	127.90†	-1.30	4.00
European Growth	466.30	495.30	-3.00	0.80
Europe	416.10	444.10	+2.50	0.80
German Growth	102.70	108.80		0.50
Global Bond	73.26	77.04	+0.31	4.80
Global Growth	163.60	173.70†	-1.00	0.40
Japan Growth	120.08	127.00	-8.49	
Japan Sombra	82.09	86.85	-5.85	
Korea Trust	25.65	28.02	-4.26	
Portfolio	167.80	178.80	-1.60	2.00
-do- Accum	323.90	345.30	-3.10	2.00
UK Growth	127.40	136.00	-1.90	1.80
UK Smaller Cos	116.80	126.40†	-1.10	1.90
Select Managers	91.89	98.15	-0.56	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3300				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	100.50	106.90	-8.20	
Special Opps Inc	59.40	63.19	+1.09	
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 223 6020				
Balanced Growth	174.79	182.07	-1.72	1.16
-do- Accum	208.76	215.37	-2.04	1.16
Smaller Cos	180.61	188.14†	-0.84	0.37
Higher Yield #	65.92	69.71	-0.80	3.62
American Gth Inc	131.56	137.04	-0.13	
European Growth	185.68	193.41	-2.28	
-do- Accum	189.65	197.55	-2.33	
Mngd Ptnlo Inc	57.60	60.00	-0.63	1.33
-do- Accum	60.36	62.88	-0.66	1.33
Intl Spec Opps	183.98	191.65	-3.33	
Pacific Grth	111.68	116.34	+0.48	0.26
UK General #	117.67	122.57	-1.05	2.79
-do- Accum #	129.59	134.99	-1.15	2.79
Japan	39.35	40.99	-1.72	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	107.00	110.68†	+0.11	7.23
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	66.05	66.89	-0.05	6.25
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5060				
Environ	209.10	226.10	-0.80	1.61
UK Growth	254.30	267.70	-3.30	1.84
UK Income	178.90	188.30†	-1.20	3.74
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 622 100				
Can Gen Dist	262.00	277.60	-2.60	1.23
-do- Income Dist	148.20	157.00†	-1.20	3.22
-do- Accum	500.00	530.00†	-3.70	3.22
Gilt & Fxd Int	43.07	45.25	+0.02	5.08
Growth Units	310.10	331.10	-3.60	1.77
Bond	186.20	195.90	+0.20	5.90
Intl Growth	222.60	236.80	-2.80	0.31
North American	311.10	330.20	-1.60	
Far East	188.30	201.40	-0.80	1.05
UK Smaller Cos	252.30	269.80	-2.10	1.07
European	108.20	115.10	-0.40	0.56
Japanese Growth	29.95	31.74	-1.16	
High Income	259.10	276.70	-2.40	3.67
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	278.60	294.70	-1.90	
European Inc	114.40	121.60	-0.60	0.11
Smaller Cos (4-1)	110.48	117.50	+2.90	1.84
Growth	654.70	696.50	-1.80	1.90
Income & Growth #	556.20	591.80	-3.60	4.30
-do- Accum #	868.80	924.30	-5.80	4.30
Japan & Gen	49.79	52.90	-1.44	
Hallmark Gwth	1401.00	1460.00†	-10.00	1.70
-do- Accum	1760.00	1834.00	-12.00	1.70
Special Sits	151.90	161.70	-0.40	1.86
High Yield	1778.00	1833.00†	-11.00	3.86
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	110.64	117.71	+0.28	2.41
American Portfolio	157.93	167.46		0.72
European Portfolio	155.19	164.95	-1.27	0.39
High Income	54.67	57.55†	+0.38	5.63
Japanese Portfolio	46.22	49.02†	-1.42	
Pacific Portfolio	112.14	120.59	-2.03	0.99
UK Equity	108.33	115.59	+0.35	3.10
UK Equity & Bd	64.95	68.82	+0.42	5.14
UK Smlr Cos	53.14	56.84	-0.37	1.85
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	898.83	811.91	+4.88	3.81
Inv Fd Acc	918.77	922.85	+4.97	
Fxd Int Sec Inc	165.08	165.74	+1.81	8.83
Fxd Int Sec Acc	172.56	173.28	+1.87	
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	880.83	894.15	+9.11	3.89
Investment Acc	4293.05	4297.03	+43.77	
Fixed Int Inc	133.19	133.73	+0.66	8.67
Fixed Int Acc	264.63	265.69	+1.35	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8800				
Beckman Intl	98.10	101.05†	+1.56	6.12
Beck Bio-Tech	39.19	42.31	-0.17	
Acorn Ethical Tst	210.39	223.82	+1.15	0.42
City Fin Assets	85.01	89.27†	+0.09	2.95
City Fin Intl	83.37	87.56†	-0.27	0.06
Fnds New Cap	355.57	378.27	+0.54	1.65
Buckley Wrld Grth	137.45	145.70	-0.67	
Stone Utilities	80.29	81.91†	-0.33	3.66
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	49.49	52.51	-0.35	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	96.92	103.11	-0.38	
Dragon Growth	48.78	58.03	+0.14	1.55
Equity High Inc	110.76	117.20	-0.03	3.19
-do- Accum	166.28	175.95	-0.06	3.19
Extra Income Inc	28.55	30.06	+0.07	6.29
Extra Income Acc	33.19	34.94	+0.07	6.29
European Gwth	77.98	82.52	-0.71	0.12
Evergreen	34.18	36.55	-0.18	
General Equity	128.29	135.40	-0.27	2.32
Japan Growth	32.56	34.64	-1.01	
Pedigree Gwth	77.16	81.65	-0.29	1.57
Pad Sm Cos Inc	40.97	43.35†	-0.13	1.43
-do- Accum	44.10	46.67	-0.15	1.43
Retirement Inc #	33.09	35.20	+0.04	5.06
Special Sits	*53.37*	*57.34*	*+0.10*	*2.49*
UK & Overseas	64.96	68.74	-0.40	0.52
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (UK) LTD				
01634 888 000				
Balanced	79.11	82.40	-0.59	3.63
Capital	96.55	100.57	-0.86	1.98
High Income	55.63	57.94†	+0.09	6.51
Top 50	68.49	72.38	-0.69	2.02
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 836 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	220.05	229.24	+3.24	4.21
Long Gilt	49.85	51.89	+0.39	5.09
Monthly Inc Plus	57.71	60.12	+0.24	7.45
Preference Share	55.22	57.53	+0.22	6.78
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	160.62	167.33	-0.14	5.35
Managed Fund	82.13	85.56	-0.28	2.64
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	51.52	53.67	-0.49	1.58
-do- Accum	61.61	64.18	-0.59	1.58
UK & General	116.96	121.85	-2.18	2.31
-do- Accum	156.74	163.29	-2.93	2.31
UK Growth	233.78	243.56	+2.07	1.61
International Growth Funds				
Europa Growth	255.19	265.85	-2.01	0.50
Far Eastern Gth	95.73	99.73	-1.48	0.28
Global Bond	71.16	74.13		6.93
Japan Growth	86.93	90.56	-2.09	
North Amer Gth	297.82	310.26	-0.60	
Oriental Growth	57.25	59.64	-0.52	0.82
Worldwide Growth	77.65	80.89	-0.48	0.32
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.21	92.21	+0.09	6.37
Homemaker Fund	97.00	103.20	-0.36	2.09
Quilter Fund	167.88	178.60	-1.42	1.77
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Consistent UT	*40.37*	*43.08*	*+0.42*	*2.88*
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	190.80	202.80†	-1.10	2.27
Income	84.60	90.00	-1.15	3.85
European Growth	88.21	93.63	-1.63	0.31
Recovery	203.20	216.20	+2.70	1.94
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	1151.60	1170.00†	..	3.03
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
European Inc	79.78	84.62	-1.04	0.37
Fellowship Tst	118.60	126.10	-0.40	1.16
Income #	322.10	342.60†	-1.80	4.05
-do- Accum #	890.60	947.40	-5.20	4.05
Smaller Cos	232.20	247.00	-1.80	0.74
-do- Accum	290.10	308.60	-2.30	0.74
Gth Portfolio	112.80	120.00	-0.60	1.32
High Inc Port #	95.98	102.10	-0.60	4.09
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 470 1634				
Global Sm Cos	1755.80	1775.20	+3.70	0.58
UK Small Cos	2300.80	2404.50	+4.10	2.85
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	249.50	257.20†	-3.30	
DRESDNER RCM FUNDS (UK) LTD				
Dealers 0171 956 7354 Client Helpline 0800 317573				
Formerly KBUT				
Amer Smlr Cos	192.00	204.20	-0.10	
Aston Growth	186.00	197.80†	-1.70	0.30
Bond Income	107.60	111.60†	+0.10	6.80
European	219.40	233.30	-1.00	0.60
European Pnr	117.80	125.10	-0.50	2.90
European Special	157.90	167.90	+1.80	
Gilt Yield	127.10	134.00†	+0.30	6.30
Global Eqty Inc	130.90	139.00	-1.20	1.60
High Yield	188.90	200.90†	-1.40	4.70
Japan	286.70	305.00	-12.20	
Japanese Special	127.00	135.10	-10.70	
Money Market	102.31	102.31	+0.08	6.17
North American	135.80	144.40	+0.50	
Smaller Cos	158.10	168.10	-1.30	1.00
Smlr Cos Div	68.52	72.89	-0.03	3.60
Tomorrows Co Ex	*1122.00*	*1139.00*	*-6.60*	*3.40*
UK Equity Growth	59.54	63.34	+0.14	1.10
UK Index Inc	399.60	401.60	-3.70	3.00
Birchen Tst	112.70	121.10†		1.60
Global Income	242.40	257.80	-4.20	3.10
Formerly Thornton				
European	380.80	398.60	-1.80	0.90
Europe Bd	38.04	39.57	-0.61	6.70
Exempt	786.00	830.10	-7.10	2.80
Global Em Mkts	74.44	77.94	+0.80	0.60
Japan Tst	*64.11*	*67.13*	*-1.21*	
Little Dragons	75.14	78.68	-1.22	
Nth Amer Gwth	385.70	403.80	+1.00	0.40
Oriental Income #	39.87	41.74	-0.58	4.58
Preference	146.20	153.00	+0.30	7.80
Tiger	192.80	201.80	-1.30	
UK Blue Chip	98.08	102.80	-0.60	1.50
UK Growth	772.70	809.00	-6.50	0.80
UK High Yield #	136.10	142.40	-0.60	4.80
UK Mid-Cap	369.10	386.40	+0.40	1.60
UK Smlr Cos Div #	*90.60*	*94.88*	*+0.04*	*5.80*
UK Smlr Cos	135.70	142.00	-2.90	0.70
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 520				
Convertibles #	24.46	25.99	+0.17	5.39
Enterprise	120.60	127.80	-0.10	1.96
Equity Income #	166.90	177.30	-1.20	3.62
European	73.30	77.54	+0.02	
Financial	67.11	71.30	-0.43	1.40
Growth & Inc #	*343.30*	*364.80*	*-2.40*	*2.40*
High Dist #	213.40	226.70†	-1.80	3.75
International	415.30	441.30	-0.50	0.23
Intl Cap Inc	114.50	122.20†	-1.00	2.21
Latin American	35.30	37.51	+2.30	
Mgd Gwth Port	95.32	99.61	+0.89	0.70
Pacific	65.71	69.82†	-0.56	
Pref High Inc	25.60	27.20†	+0.14	8.62
Tokyo	147.30	155.70	-5.30	
UK Smaller Cos	248.00	261.40	-2.60	1.15
Japan Sm Cos	232.40	246.10	-10.80	
Nth Amer	518.70	548.40	-1.60	0.53
UK Inc & Gth	307.10	326.80†	-2.90	2.27
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
BRI Director Digs	123.39	131.41	-0.13	0.98
Growth Acc	311.43	331.47	+6.17	0.21
Income	621.70	662.53	-2.04	5.62
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	242.30	257.80	+3.70	1.03
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	109.46	115.22	-0.77	1.51
Ethical Tst	53.09	55.88	-1.35	0.91
Far Eastern	215.63	226.98	-6.68	1.99
High Income	165.02	173.71†	-1.63	4.18
UK Index Trckng	63.01	66.33	-1.29	2.58
Intl Growth	135.18	142.29	-4.15	1.48
North American	186.77	196.60	-0.69	1.33
Pelican	170.28	179.24	-2.89	2.88
Smaller Cos	73.21	77.06	-0.80	2.23
Special Sits	89.37	94.07	+0.05	2.81
Tst of Inv Tsts	226.76	238.69	-1.08	1.65
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	126.63	134.36†	-0.62	
Fd of Inv Tsts	56.69	60.15	-0.17	0.48
High Income #	42.89	45.48†	+0.12	10.99
Warr & Gl Opps	49.51	53.24	-0.41	
Zero Preference	48.38	51.33	+0.02	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 724 570				
Family Asset Tst	114.30	121.50†	-0.90	2.14
United Charities	333.50	354.70†	-3.60	2.36
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callfree: Private Clients 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		6.80
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond	25.79	26.74†	+0.02	5.47
Strategic Inc	29.62	30.94†	-0.03	5.49
Income Funds				
High Income	30.66	32.17	-0.14	4.88
Income Plus	164.70	175.20	-1.50	3.58
European Income	59.69	63.37	-0.62	1.77
Moneybuilder Gwth	37.65	37.92	-0.34	2.50
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	30.00	32.01	+0.04	
American	403.10	427.90†	-3.00	
Amer Spec Sits	219.10	233.60	-5.20	
Japan Smaller Cos	17.32	18.37	-1.37	
European	284.60	302.90	-1.80	0.35
European Opps	103.30	109.80	-0.20	0.52
Global Prv	37.04	39.39	-0.15	0.42
UK Growth	147.60	157.00	-0.78	1.24
Growth & Inc	213.40	227.00	-2.10	2.64
Intl PEP	57.03	60.64	-0.57	1.14
Japan Spec Sits	57.21	60.67	-3.69	
Japan	151.30	160.30	-3.90	
Managed Intl	413.30	438.90	-4.30	0.61
Moneybuilder Plus	73.74	74.26	-0.85	0.35
Recovery	68.74	73.09	-1.35	1.87
South E Asia	147.60	157.10	+0.70	1.33
Special Sits	882.70	932.60	+0.30	1.20
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	122.28	122.28	+0.12	6.80
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	158.70	160.40	+1.70	1.72
Finsbury Prf Inc #	107.10	108.00†	-0.20	5.95
Cap Pfolio	183.40	184.90	-0.90	
General Opps	159.90	160.90†	+2.40	3.36
Growth Inc	44.84	45.33†	-0.34	1.22
Private Portfolio	537.00	543.10	+8.20	0.79
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 690 385 Admin/Val 01277 690 350				
Euro Smlr Cos	163.30	173.50	+0.10	
High Income	21.85	23.17	-0.08	9.71
Japan Smlr Cos	11.19	12.06	-0.84	
US Smaller Cos	513.70	545.50	+0.40	
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6600 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	101.00	107.10	-0.90	
-do- Accum	101.00	107.10	-0.80	
Amer Smlr Cos	737.70	785.10	-14.30	
-do- Accum	753.70	802.20	-14.40	
Capital Tst	415.90	442.40	+4.20	1.26
-do- Accum	619.20	659.70	+6.40	1.26
Cont Smlr Cos	63.78	68.30	-0.24	1.03
-do- Accum	68.44	73.18	-0.26	1.03
Convertible	149.20	158.70	+0.10	5.38
-do- Accum	338.00	359.60	+0.30	5.38
Emerging Markets	81.92	88.15	+0.90	0.54
-do- Accum	62.40	66.67	+0.91	0.54
European	180.00	188.60	-3.10	0.40
-do- Accum	191.30	202.70	-3.30	0.40
Extra Income	456.10	487.30	-4.60	3.99
-do- Accum	754.50	802.70	-7.70	3.99
Financial	225.70	240.10†	+0.10	0.94
-do- Accum	241.80	257.20†	+0.10	0.94
Gilt Trust	63.16	65.12†	+0.01	7.04
-do- Accum	104.00	107.30†	+0.10	7.04
Health Fund Inc	279.20	297.00†	-5.10	
-do- Accum	279.20	297.00†	-5.10	
Income & Growth	259.50	276.10†	-1.80	3.54
-do- Accum	432.40	460.00†	-2.80	3.54
Intl Growth	442.00	470.50†	-4.50	
-do- Accum	490.80	522.40†	-5.00	
Japan & Gen	123.20	130.80	-3.70	
-do- Accum	124.50	132.00	-3.80	
Monthly Inc #	230.80	244.70†	-2.10	3.98
-do- Accum #	239.20	254.50†	-2.20	3.98
Managed Port Inc	129.70	136.50	-1.30	1.31
-do- Accum	142.80	150.10	-1.50	1.31
Quarterly Income #	*62.10*	*66.39†*	*-0.57*	*5.17*
-do- Accum #	75.25	80.46†	-0.69	5.17
Recovery	305.10	326.30	-2.60	
-do- Accum	360.20	385.20	-3.00	
UK Growth	73.63	78.33	-0.94	1.79
-do- Accum	81.35	86.54	-1.05	1.79
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01722 715835 Enq 01722 715834				
FP American	78.01	82.91	+1.25	
FP Am Smlr Cos	220.20	234.80	+1.40	
FP Asian Growth	174.90	186.50	+4.30	
FP Australian	405.00	431.90	+7.90	
FP Equity Dist	534.40	570.00†	+2.20	2.01
-do- Accum	1219.00	1300.00	+5.00	2.01
FP Euro Gth	358.80	382.70	+2.10	
-do- Accum	393.10	419.30	+2.30	
FP Intl Bond	56.81	60.17	+0.31	3.92
FP Intl Gth Dist	41.77	44.55†	+0.76	0.05
-do- Accum	61.55	65.65	+1.11	0.05
FP Pac Basin Acc	170.00	181.30†	+6.10	0.22
FP Income #	70.54	75.24	+1.22	4.36
-do- Accum #	255.90	272.90	+4.40	4.36
FP Jap Smlr Cos	166.70	177.80	-0.80	
FP Monthly Dist #	85.18	90.85†	+1.73	4.81
FP Stg Deposit	100.80	100.80†	+0.10	6.18
FP Tokyo	65.27	69.62	+1.53	
FP UK Focus	50.74	54.12†	+0.55	1.52
FP UK Growth	239.50	255.40	+2.00	1.58
-do- Accum	493.00	525.80	+4.10	1.58
Stewardship Dist	473.70	505.30†	-2.70	1.41
-do- Accum	606.50	646.90	-3.50	1.41
Stwdshp Inc Dist #	77.60	82.77†	-0.05	5.25
-do- Accum #	113.10	120.60	-0.10	5.25
N Am Stshp Dist	156.00	166.30	+1.30	
-do- Accum	167.90	179.00	+1.40	
FP Exempt Trust				
Inst Ethical In #	123.00	123.60	+0.40	2.90
Inst Ethical Ac #	124.30	124.90	+0.40	2.90
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	142.60	151.60†	+4.10	0.56
Open Cap Gth Acc	139.90	148.80	+1.70	0.12
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	129.30	137.50	+2.00	2.66
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	140.00	148.90	+2.20	2.66
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	133.70	142.20	+1.40	3.68
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	146.80	156.10	+1.60	3.68
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 106/7				
GANDA	352.50	371.10†	-1.90	1.88
Cash	49.41	50.15†	+0.02	5.65
Income Portfolio	80.95	85.21†	-0.81	2.38
GA Equity Gth	268.60	285.70	-3.20	1.29
GA European Gth	160.40	170.10	-1.40	0.08
GA Japan Gth	77.12	81.95	-2.29	
GA Nth Amer Gth	290.50	307.90	+0.60	0.04
GA Intl Gth	132.70	141.00	-0.40	
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Inv 0800 212274 Dealing 0171 626 9431				
American Smlr Cos	251.00	268.40		0.12
European Gth	829.40	881.10	-0.90	0.54
Euro Eq & Bd Inc	58.49	61.93	-0.27	3.41
-do- Accum	*68.28*	*72.29*	*-0.32*	*3.41*
High Yield #	52.92	55.94†	+0.14	7.18
-do- Accum #	63.01	66.61	+0.14	7.18
Income Inc	218.90	234.20	-1.10	3.80
-do- Accum	258.50	276.50	-1.40	3.80
Intl Growth	400.40	424.90	+1.00	0.29
Intl Income	113.30	120.00	+1.80	1.97
Japan Growth	383.50	406.00	-3.60	
Orient Acc	135.90	144.80	+0.70	0.21
UK General Inc	219.70	234.50	-1.80	1.68
UK General Acc	398.30	425.30	-3.30	1.68
UK Sm Cos Div Acc	66.33	70.95	-0.68	1.64
UK Spec Sits	115.30	123.40	-1.20	1.23
US Growth	229.00	242.20	+4.30	
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
0171 782 2000 Dlgs only: 01277 264 421				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	72.30	77.21	-0.03	1.88
Practical Inv Inc #	133.22	142.48	-0.27	3.38
-do- Accum #	331.39	354.43	-0.67	3.38
UK Index	212.38	213.45	-1.91	2.88
UK Smaller Cos	240.26	258.86†	-2.28	0.37
Income Funds				
Extra Yield	25.92	26.86†	+0.12	6.85
High Income	41.09	43.81†	-0.34	3.24
UK Growth & Inc	189.06	201.55†	-1.42	1.77
Global Bond	27.54	28.54	+0.03	5.08
International Funds				
Emerging Markets	42.46	45.41	+0.71	
Global Managed	151.97	167.30†	-1.19	1.15
Gold & Intl Res	78.75	84.22†	-5.54	
Global Utilities	173.04	184.45†	+1.58	0.66
Overseas Funds				
American	240.09	254.01	-2.47	0.35
European	160.65	170.68	-2.14	0.50
Euro Sel Opps	254.28	270.54	-3.01	
Amer Emerging	194.32	206.92	-2.04	
Hong Kong	135.98	145.14	-6.29	1.55
Japan	152.67	161.84	-7.64	
Pacific Growth	154.53	165.17	-2.47	
Gartmore Pensions Strategy Funds				
Cash Trust	154.13	154.13	+0.16	6.56
Managed Equity	284.96	284.96†	-1.89	1.60
Long Term Bal	305.06	305.06†	-2.02	2.73
Med Term Bal	253.54	253.54†	-0.62	2.79
UK Equity	359.90	359.90	-2.57	2.01
UK Emerging Cos	188.67	188.67	+5.11	2.16
American	403.18	403.18	-1.88	0.17
Japan	92.80	92.80†	-2.63	
European	420.97	420.97	-5.19	0.63
Index Linked Gilt	*209.77*	*209.77*	*+1.64*	*2.49*
Fixed Interest	200.57	200.57†	+0.24	6.85
Amer Emergng	430.13	430.13	-4.15	
Pacific	135.20	135.20	+0.21	2.06
Emerging Mkts	122.49	122.49	+2.38	0.77
Index Strat Japan	97.24	97.24	-2.35	0.37
-do- Pacific Rim	122.54	122.54	-1.48	2.06
-do- Cont Europe	227.79	227.79	-2.38	1.25
Index Strat USA	249.85	249.85	-0.06	1.10
Gartmore Personal Pension Funds				
Managed Equity	134.72	143.31	-0.95	
Med Term Bal	121.46	129.21	-0.32	
Long Term Bal	137.86	146.66	-0.97	
UK Equity	167.97	178.68	-1.24	
UK Emerging Cos	89.13	94.82	+2.59	
American	187.37	199.33	-0.93	
Japan	44.40	47.23	-1.33	
European	175.41	186.60	-2.27	
Fixed Interest	104.03	110.67	+0.13	
Index Linked Gilt	93.65	99.62	+0.87	
Deposit	*93.29*	*89.34*	*+0.11*	
Broker Unit Trusts				
BWH Intl	163.40	172.00	+0.73	0.49
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT				
GAM Sterling Management 0171 493 9990				
Stg & Intl Inc	708.93	754.18	-21.18	
-do- Accum	804.71	856.07	-34.04	
European Inc	204.53	216.67	-2.70	0.35
Arbitrage Inc	176.10	187.34	+1.01	
N America Inc	*500.94*	*532.91*	*-5.15*	
Far East Inc	264.39	281.27	-1.49	0.44
-do- Accum	274.41	291.93	-1.55	0.44
UK Divid Inc	241.29	256.69	-3.17	0.74
GUARDIAN UT MGRS LTD				
0171 538 8688				
European	681.50	728.00	-7.30	
Gilt & Fixed	140.40	148.80	+0.30	5.22
Growth Equity	488.30	521.60†	-3.30	0.89
Income Trust	178.50	190.60	-0.60	3.45
International	215.10	229.80	-1.70	
Japan Trust	90.38	96.55	-2.10	
Nth American	436.80	466.60†	-0.70	
Pacific	358.90	383.40†	-2.20	0.81
Guardfund	702.80	750.80	-7.20	1.00
GUINNESS FLIGHT UT MGRS LTD				
0171 522 2129				
European Bond	98.04	101.74	-0.18	5.01
Global High Inc	93.66	97.21†	+0.01	4.99
Stg Bond Pflo	112.94	117.23	+0.30	7.06
Cash Mgd Pflo	128.51	136.64†	+0.08	4.80
European Pflo	151.94	161.55	+0.58	
World Mkts Pflo	78.41	83.37	-0.27	0.75
UK Eq Inc Pflo	166.40	176.92†	-0.02	3.17
-do- Accum	255.65	271.82	-0.04	3.17
UK Opps	490.30	521.20	-0.40	2.22
-do- Accum	598.60	636.40	-0.60	2.22
St Vinc High Inc	147.70	149.91	+2.58	5.57
UK Emerg Cos	284.00	302.00†	-5.10	3.05
Inst UK Sm Co	387.40	394.20	-7.50	3.20
Glob Pro Tst	136.93	145.60†	-1.63	1.07
-do- Accum	143.22	152.28	-1.70	1.07
Inc Share Tst	104.64	111.26	-0.20	7.62
HK & China Tst	77.17	82.05	-0.46	
High Provider	108.27	109.90	+0.10	5.28
Blue Chip Pflo	286.26	298.54	-3.86	0.33
HALIFAX UT MGMT LTD				
Dealing: 01904 611110				
Balanced Inc	63.49	67.33†	-0.40	2.81
Balanced Acc	69.46	73.66	-0.44	2.81
Growth	39.40	41.78†	-0.40	1.69
Growth Acc	41.45	43.95	-0.42	1.69
Income	37.67	39.95†	-0.57	3.77
Income Acc	41.78	44.30	-0.64	3.77
Accumulation Tst	33.08	35.79	-0.48	2.77
HARGREAVES LANSDOWN FUND MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 690 230 Dealing: 01277 690 412				
UK Pef Acc	52.93	56.16	-0.57	2.71
HENDERSON INVESTORS				
Enquiries: 0645 494949 Dealing: 0645 484646				
UK Funds				
UK Enterprise	392.64	419.47	-3.84	0.42
Best of British	85.62	91.00†	-0.49	1.71
UK Smaller Cos	161.89	174.02	-0.59	0.84
High Income Funds				
Income & Growth #	358.78	383.15†	-9.06	2.79
-do- Accum #	1059.43	1128.26	-11.65	2.79
High Income	394.12	421.31†	-3.58	3.80
Extra Income #	338.44	359.92	-1.88	5.32
Pref & Bond	54.98	57.93†	+0.00	7.40
International				
Ethical	136.47	145.94	-0.41	1.31
International	342.01	363.04	-3.69	
Global Bond	53.39	56.29	+0.12	5.49
Ind Port Tst	107.05	114.38†	+0.05	0.42
Global Tech	261.37	278.90†	-7.86	
Overseas Funds				
Asian Enterprise	143.99	153.98	-1.46	1.33
European	747.85	792.38†	-11.43	0.29
European Income #	108.24	117.52	-0.87	3.27
Euro Smlr Cos	203.93	218.57†	-2.71	0.44
European Value	108.35	115.62†	-1.07	
-do- Accum	117.00	124.86	-1.15	
Japan Inst	127.98	136.07	-8.21	
Japan Smlr Cos	105.99	113.68	-8.69	
Pacific Smlr Cos	158.42	168.84	-4.09	
North American	410.56	435.31	-0.25	
American Smaller	219.32	233.26†	-2.80	
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0800 530053				
British	148.80	155.81†	-0.91	1.54
Capital	225.19	238.81	-0.50	1.16
Dollar	612.78	641.65†	-0.76	
Enterprise Gth	492.89	518.11	+4.90	0.91
European	325.56	340.92	-1.67	
Far East	369.34	386.73	-0.86	2.57
Financial	1322.94	1385.28	-0.41	1.45
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	28.30	29.43†	+0.11	6.17
High Yield #	132.98	139.23†	-2.44	4.24
Income & Growth #	196.56	205.82†	-0.81	3.12
International	316.05	330.94	-1.88	0.51
Japanese General	146.16	153.05	-5.98	
Japan Tech	67.46	70.64	-1.52	
Natl Resources	57.48	60.18	-2.39	1.03
Portfolio	93.87	98.29	-0.03	1.81
Special Sits	241.47	252.85	+3.36	0.34
UK Emerging Cos	134.76	141.11	+1.82	1.11
US Smaller Cos	187.79	196.63	+0.09	
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers 0800 181 990 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	772.90	824.90	-5.50	4.87
UK Growth	811.80	865.90†	-7.10	1.27
High Income #	138.30	147.60†	-0.60	5.72
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	774.50	818.30	-3.20	
European Gwth	186.90	198.70	-1.60	
Japan Gwth	214.30	227.70†	-10.40	
Japan Smlr Cos	18.39	19.62	-1.41	
Asian	38.02	40.58	+0.07	0.33
Sing & Malay Gwth	43.81	46.76	-0.39	
Hong Kong Gwth	148.40	158.40	-3.70	0.36
Global Bond	20.60	21.70	+0.01	4.51
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	201.90	202.00	-1.80	2.75
Tobin Index	135.80	139.50	-0.20	2.07
THE FOOTSIE FUND	81.21	81.62	-0.98	2.14
Index Funds-International				
American Index	380.60	381.90	+0.40	0.57
Eurotrack 100	238.30	239.50	-3.70	1.03
Japan Index	51.72	51.98	-1.02	0.23
Tiger Index	93.95	98.24	-3.56	1.60
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
UK Smaller Cos	51.49	53.78	-0.57	1.77
General Funds				
Managed Dist	92.84	98.96†	-1.11	1.15
Managed	96.61	100.90†	-1.10	1.15
Export Child Fed	127.50	133.00	-1.50	1.86
UK Growth	81.39	85.00†	-0.99	1.58
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc #	103.40	108.00	-0.50	4.97
Gilt & Fixed Int #	28.64	29.59		7.34
UK Inc & Gwth	56.56	59.09†	-0.67	2.69
UK Income #	438.00	457.40†	-3.30	3.91
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	75.68	78.33	-1.00	
Amer Smlr Cos	188.70	196.79	-4.90	
-do- Accum	190.70	198.70	-5.10	
Europe Gth	278.90	290.30	-0.90	
-do- Accum	288.60	300.70	-1.00	
Euro Smaller Cos	50.08	52.14†	+0.16	
French Growth	104.30	108.30	-1.90	0.58
-do- Accum	112.90	117.30	-2.00	0.58
H Kong & China	98.47	102.80	-4.10	0.60
Intl Growth	72.33	75.33†	-0.92	0.47
-do- Accum	73.80	76.86†	-0.93	0.47
Japan Gth	20.07	20.85	-0.86	
-do- Accum	20.01	20.85	-0.86	
Japan Smaller Cos	18.99	19.82	-1.36	
Glob Emg Mkts	86.18	90.01	+1.73	0.02
-do- Accum	86.79	90.64	+1.73	0.02
SE Asia	208.90	218.20	-2.70	1.12
Overseas Income Funds				
Intl Bond #	48.74	50.25†	+0.10	6.25
JOHNSON FRY UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
Enq 01277 227300 Dealing 01277 690448				
UK Income #	129.20	136.70†	-1.40	2.98
UK Growth	134.10	141.90†	-1.30	1.49
Euro Growth	111.80	117.30†	-0.90	1.90
Slater Gwth	223.58	238.40	-1.80	0.84
New Japan	52.06	54.96	-3.21	
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	189.40	201.30	-4.70	
Income #	367.31	384.37	-0.13	3.95
UK Growth	99.05	105.37	-0.51	2.18
Intl Growth	90.97	96.77	-0.90	0.45
Ecology	113.35	120.58†	-0.47	0.71
European	238.96	254.02	+0.31	0.52
Far Eastern	253.30	269.40	-2.30	
UK Special Sits	64.90	69.23†	-0.48	0.38
Fd of Inv Tsts	57.12	60.93†	-0.18	0.44
High Income #	58.19	62.07†	-0.52	4.87
Financial Opps	49.86	53.18†	-0.26	
For Kleinwort Benson see Dresdner RCM				
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT				
0171 407 5966				
Bridge Income	362.26	385.40†	-0.47	4.65
Esk Growth	110.99	118.07†	-1.36	0.58
Inc & Growth	82.49	87.76	-0.75	3.41
Smaller Cos	102.64	109.19†	-1.16	1.49
Ever Spec Sit Inc	62.60	68.60†	-0.39	1.79
Ever Spec Sit Acc	66.27	70.50†	-0.32	1.79
LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01277 690 432				
UK Cap	540.40	573.40	-4.70	1.52
UK Inc/Gth #	578.80	614.10	-1.10	3.13
UK Income #	409.60	434.60†	-1.20	4.06
UK Sm Cos	327.30	350.10	-1.80	1.86
Euro Gwth	184.50	195.60†	-1.20	0.14
N Amer Gwth	147.80	156.80		
Pacific Growth	6.56	6.96	-0.31	0.68
Emg Mkts Gwth	*67.60*	*71.72*	*+0.21*	
Japan Growth	43.11	45.71	-1.18	
Dealing: 01277 842626				
Gwth Port Inc	78.42	82.93	+0.53	0.64
Gwth Port Acc	80.11	84.71	+0.54	0.63
Inc Port Inc	72.99	77.19†	+0.54	3.53
Inc Port Acc	84.16	89.01†	+0.62	3.40
Wwide Port	61.19	64.71	+0.37	
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD				
Enquiries: 01222 448412 Dealing: 01222 688512				
Equity Dist @	703.70	703.70†	-6.10	2.08
-do- Accum @	1488.00	1488.00†	-13.00	2.08
Equity Income #	121.30	121.30†	-1.10	4.50
UK Tactical Allocts @	80.67	80.67†	-1.03	5.33
European @	171.90	171.90†	-1.90	0.23
Far Eastern @	162.10	162.10†	-0.10	
Fixed Interest @	58.60	58.60†	+0.06	7.34
Gilt @	97.15	97.15†	+0.32	6.04
Global Growth @	81.54	81.54†	+0.12	0.18
Intl Bond @	48.26	48.26†	+0.12	5.06
Japanese @	53.43	53.43†	-0.68	
North American @	280.30	280.30†	-0.40	
Pacific Growth @	78.94	78.94†	-0.76	0.87
Pacific Index @	31.95	31.95†	-0.38	3.13
UK Index @	91.46	91.46†	-0.84	2.66
UK Recovery @	131.80	131.80†	-1.00	1.57
UK Smaller Cos @	178.10	178.10†	-1.00	1.11
US Index @	*109.60*	*109.60†*		*0.77*
European Index @	109.40	109.40†	-1.10	1.15
Japan Index @	26.53	26.53†	-0.55	
Worldwide @	107.40	107.40†	-0.90	1.07
LINCOLN UNIT TRUST MGRS				
01452 371 500 Dealing: 01452 371 623				
Growth	66.40	71.01†	-0.79	2.17
Income	79.61	85.14	-0.68	3.55
Far East	31.78	33.98	-0.31	
North American	161.00	171.60	-0.80	
Global	89.19	95.39	-0.87	0.33
European	119.50	127.30	+1.00	0.63
Japan	63.92	68.17	-2.39	
Intl Currency Bd	55.41	58.70	+0.10	5.84
SE Asia	63.25	67.64	+0.55	0.63
UK Cap Growth	118.80	127.00	-1.20	1.84
Recovery Trust	97.06	103.80†	+0.80	2.65
Managed	74.22	79.37	-0.41	1.65
Cash	51.87	51.87	+0.06	6.70
LLOYDS BK UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
Helpdesk: 01634 834 339 Dealing: 01634 834 313				
Balanced	485.30	516.30†	-7.20	1.93
-do- Accum	1180.00	1256.00	-17.00	1.93
Contl Euro Gth	93.07	97.97†	+0.29	0.01
-do- Accum	100.70	106.00	+0.20	0.01
Extra Inc #	343.60	365.60†	+0.20	3.45
Extra Inc Acc #	989.20	1053.00		3.45
FTSE 100 Inc	150.50	160.20	-2.30	2.16
FTSE 100 Acc	160.40	170.70	-2.40	2.15
German Gth	*164.60*	*173.30*	*-1.10*	*0.08*
-do- Accum	172.60	181.70	-1.20	0.08
Growth Port	738.90	786.10	-17.10	0.33
-do- Accum	778.20	827.90	-18.10	0.33
High Interest Inc	109.20	113.20	+0.10	6.77
High Interest Acc	122.70	127.20	+0.10	6.77
Hi Reserve Inc #	120.10	127.80†	-0.70	5.41
Hi Reserve Acc #	138.80	147.70	-0.80	5.41
Income Inc #	669.40	712.20†	-9.20	2.99
Income Acc #	1968.00	2094.00	-28.00	2.99
Income Port	657.30	699.30†	-4.50	3.96
-do- Accum	770.40	819.60	-5.80	3.96
Japan Growth	75.52	80.35	-1.29	
-do- Accum	75.79	80.63	-1.30	
Master Trust	74.58	79.25	-0.72	1.21
-do- Accum	87.63	93.23	-0.84	1.21
Millennium Acc	113.50	120.80	+2.20	2.03
N American Gth	306.40	326.00	+1.50	0.02
-do- Accum	354.60	377.30	+1.70	0.02
NAm Sm Co Rec	230.70	245.50	-0.20	
-do- Accum	235.50	250.60	-0.20	
Pacific Basin	*166.00*	*176.60*	*-3.00*	*0.76*
-do- Accum	176.90	188.20	-3.30	0.76
Safety First Acc	114.20	120.30	-0.40	1.47
Do until 2/10/98 ‡	109.20			
Small Cos Rec	544.00	572.70†	-5.00	2.01
-do- Accum	763.90	804.20	-7.10	2.01
UK Eq Gth	198.10	210.80	-0.50	2.23
UK Eq Inc #	157.40	167.50	-0.50	3.62
UK Growth	125.90	134.00	-1.70	1.67
-do- Accum	160.80	171.10	-2.10	1.67
Worldwide Gth	*383.20*	*407.70*	*-3.20*	*0.51*
-do- Accum	*566.80*	*603.00*	*-4.20*	*0.51*
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT				
01392 282 673				
American	113.39	121.29	+0.04	0.30
General	127.28	136.58†	-1.73	2.30
Income	86.48	92.78	-0.89	4.30
International	76.32	81.88	-0.37	0.40
Japan	41.22	44.09	-1.03	
Tst of Inv Trusts	81.65	86.96†	-0.24	1.10
M & G SECURITIES				
Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390				
Amer & General	621.60	656.10	-2.80	0.42
-do- Accum	779.40	822.70	-3.50	0.42
Amer Recovery	794.90	840.60†	-2.40	0.18
-do- Accum	919.40	972.20†	-2.80	0.18
Amer Smlr Cos	184.30	194.90	-3.00	
-do- Accum	188.30	199.20	-3.00	
Australasian	182.90	193.40	-5.20	2.19
-do- Accum	234.00	247.40	-8.00	2.19
Capital	1056.30	1117.70	-5.60	2.72
-do- Accum	1293.30	1367.80	-8.10	2.72
Charifund	919.10	928.30†	-6.10	5.25
-do- Accum	5074.80	5125.60†	-33.70	5.25
Commodity	344.70	364.50	-25.20	1.38
-do- Accum	510.80	540.20	-37.30	1.38
Compound Gwth	1270.60	1343.70†	-16.50	2.13
-do- Accum	1437.00	1519.80†	-18.60	2.13
Corporate Bond	28.46	29.58	+0.13	6.50
Dividend	51.10	54.00†	+0.20	4.49
-do- Accum	240.70	254.40†	+0.80	4.49
Equity Income	[illegible]	232.30	+0.10	5.50
-do- Accum	527.60	552.50	+0.10	5.50
Euro & General	729.40	771.30	-6.30	0.61
-do- Accum	941.40	995.50	-8.10	0.61
Euro Dividend #	93.80	99.20	-0.30	3.53
-do- Accum #	122.90	130.00	-0.40	3.53
Euro Smlr Cos	56.60	59.96†		0.50
-do- Accum	58.80	62.20†	+0.10	0.50
Extra Yield	544.80	576.10	-2.70	4.81
-do- Accum	1927.10	2031.60	-9.50	4.81
Fund of Inv Tsts	750.40	793.50†	-3.20	1.62
-do- Accum	1471.60	1556.20†	-6.40	1.62
General	84.00	88.80	-0.60	3.36
-do- Accum	295.30	310.20	-1.50	3.36
Gilt Income	67.32	67.44†	+0.31	6.00
-do- Accum	218.31	218.98†	+1.01	6.00
Gold	35.08	37.00	-4.00	1.12
-do- Accum	42.20	44.60	-4.80	1.12
High Income	39.10	41.40	-0.30	4.36
-do- Accum	174.00	184.30	-1.30	4.36
Intl Growth	87.30	92.30	-0.90	0.86
-do- Accum	156.50	164.40	-1.60	0.86
International Inc	122.60	129.60†	-0.30	4.17
-do- Accum	203.60	215.30†	-0.40	4.17
Japan & Gen	24.20	25.40†	-1.10	0.08
-do- Accum	25.90	27.30†	-1.20	0.08
Japan Smlr Cos	80.50	85.10†	-6.00	0.06
-do- Accum	81.10	85.70†	-6.10	0.06
Managed Gwth	28.10	29.60	-0.40	7.56
Managed Income	33.70	35.40†	-0.18	4.31
Midland	*64.80*	*68.30†*	*-0.20*	*2.86*
-do- Accum	232.80	245.30†	-0.80	2.66
Pension Ex	1248.00	1279.20†	-14.70	3.49
Recovery	53.60	56.70	+0.40	2.82
-do- Accum	94.40	100.00	+0.80	2.82
Second General	*82.50*	*87.20*	*-0.90*	*3.86*
-do- Accum	231.20	244.60	-2.40	3.86
Smaller Cos	67.70	71.60	-0.30	2.73
-do- Accum	144.00	152.20	-0.60	2.73
Sth East Asia	256.10	270.80	-4.20	2.15
-do- Accum	346.50	366.40	-5.70	2.15
Treasury	*24.98*	*25.07†*	*-0.08*	*7.00*
Trustee	50.30	53.20†	-0.40	4.72
-do- Accum	228.60	241.80†	-1.80	4.72
MEM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 610 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	124.45	132.40†	-0.85	0.56
Intl Bond	80.43	83.50†	+0.33	3.35
Intl Equity Growth	91.43	97.06†	-0.79	0.57
N Amer Growth	171.25	181.64	+0.71	0.60
Special Sits Growth	33.07	35.18	-0.32	2.04
UK Growth	545.87	580.71†	-5.81	2.38
-do- Accum	769.72	818.85	-8.19	2.38
MAY JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1448.80	1468.30†	+7.50	2.80
Income #	1144.10	1161.10	-2.90	4.40
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	*186.70*	*190.90*	*+4.50*	*3.54*
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
High Income #	100.80	104.00†	-0.30	6.46
Investment Pflo	200.80	207.00	-1.30	2.16
-do- Accum	242.60	250.10	-2.20	2.17
UK Select Pflo	188.50	194.30	-2.10	2.01
-do- Accum	231.90	239.10	-2.50	2.01
UK 100 Cos	144.20	144.20	-2.40	2.25
-do- Accum	150.00	150.80	-2.40	2.25
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	77.73	82.69	+0.93	3.14
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	96.18	102.10	-0.40	4.15
European	120.70	128.10	-0.70	0.27
Income #	97.12	103.10†		4.25
Nth American	120.30	127.70	-2.00	0.08
Far East	139.80	148.40	-0.50	
Japan	50.38	53.49	-1.50	
Emerging Mkts	82.34	88.06	+2.05	0.63
Intl Growth	139.20	147.80†	+0.30	0.54
UK Growth	140.10	148.70†	-0.40	2.60
UK Smlr Co	65.90	69.96†	-0.35	1.77
Asia Pacific	27.58	29.93	-0.43	0.97
Glob Gwth PEP	69.61	74.10†	-0.17	0.82
MATHESON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0161 831 7433				
Select Portfolio	105.50	112.30†	+0.30	
MAYFLOWER MANAGEMENT CO LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Income	560.78	596.57	-4.98	3.12
Global Inc	86.87	92.52	-0.83	2.69
Brit Leaders Inc	437.94	465.89	-6.27	1.71
Intl Leaders	271.34	288.66	-2.40	0.97
PAM Mg Bal Gwth	72.94	75.94	+0.75	0.22
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 0800 445522				
American	351.00	369.90†	+0.60	
-do- Accum	375.39	395.50†	+0.80	
American Opps	140.18	148.70†	-1.70	
-do- Accum	141.90	150.60†	-1.70	
British Blue Chip	118.30	123.60	-1.10	2.67
-do- Accum	154.30	164.00	-1.40	2.67
Cash	100.60	100.60	+0.10	6.90
-do- Accum *	156.40	156.40	+0.10	6.90
Emerging Mkts	127.80	137.40	+1.80	0.22
-do- Accum	129.60	139.40	+1.90	0.22
European Growth	390.60	412.80	-2.20	0.13
-do- Accum	425.60	450.50	-2.40	0.13
European Income	98.40	104.10	-1.40	3.89
-do- Accum	148.20	156.89	-2.20	3.89
General	681.50	725.60	-9.90	2.22
-do- Accum	1422.00	1514.00	-20.00	2.22
Global Bond	125.30	131.50	-0.20	4.88
-do- Accum	174.20	183.00	-0.20	4.88
Gold & General	107.00	114.60	-6.20	0.63
-do- Accum	110.70	118.60	-6.40	0.63
Govt Securities	100.90	104.00	+0.20	5.35
-do- Accum	222.10	228.90	+0.40	5.35
High Yield Bd	108.70	111.30	+0.10	8.22
-do- Accum	121.80	124.80	+0.20	8.22
Income	228.10	242.40†	-2.30	3.74
-do- Accum	390.70	415.30†	-4.20	3.74
Inc Portfolio #	125.00	132.40†	-0.80	4.93
-do- Accum #	142.40	150.80†	-1.00	4.93
Intl Opps	609.30	649.90	-6.30	0.76
-do- Accum	827.80	883.00	-8.60	0.76
Japan	136.10	145.20	-4.70	
-do- Accum	139.80	149.10	-4.80	
New Europe	277.70	298.20	+0.50	0.95
-do- Accum	291.50	310.90	+0.50	0.95
Pacific	71.50	76.21	-0.13	0.29
-do- Accum	77.13	82.22	-0.14	0.29
Recovery	535.60	571.50†	-2.40	1.63
-do- Accum	717.20	765.00†	-3.20	1.63
UK Smaller Cos	66.99	71.46	+1.84	1.65
-do- Accum	78.44	83.67	+2.14	1.65
Portfolio	104.50	110.90†	-0.70	2.68
-do- Accum	131.70	139.70†	-1.00	2.68
Managed Gth	134.98	141.20	-0.90	1.79
Managed Inc	134.70	139.90	-1.10	3.85
METROPOLITAN UT MGRS LTD				
01707 662 233				
Eurogrowth Plus	183.21	194.90	-0.15	0.12
Portfolio	90.93	96.73	-0.32	1.24
UK Income Inc	111.61	118.73	-0.70	3.98
MIDLAND UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enq: 0345 456 123 Dlg: 0345 456 126				
Balanced	75.54	79.10	-0.71	2.50
-do- Accum	85.52	89.55	-0.81	2.50
British Tst	128.30	134.30	-2.50	1.94
-do- Accum	156.90	164.30	-3.00	1.94
Corp Bond Inc	104.20	108.00†	+0.10	6.17
-do- Accum	114.08	118.10†	+0.10	6.17
Extra High Inc	82.76	86.66	-0.36	5.80
-do- Accum #	188.60	197.50	-0.80	5.80
FTSE 100 Acc	87.85	91.99	-1.18	1.86
FTSE 100 Dist	80.84	84.65	-1.02	1.88
Gilt & Fxd Int	59.27	61.69	+0.11	6.03
-do- Accum	199.00	207.10	+0.40	6.03
High Yield	280.10	293.30†	-0.80	5.80
-do- Accum #	824.80	863.70†	-2.60	5.80
Household Names	112.60	113.20	-1.20	1.59
Income	386.00	404.20	-5.60	3.75
-do- Accum #	938.90	983.10	-13.70	3.75
Money Market UT	49.42	49.42†	+0.04	6.29
-do- Accum	*87.67*	*87.67†*	*+0.08*	*6.29*
Monthly Income	112.30	117.68†	-0.60	3.97
Midland Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	164.40	174.90	-2.20	1.89
European Growth	164.40	174.30	-0.70	
Gilt & Fixed	*172.60*	*179.57*	*+0.30*	*5.88*
Income	129.00	137.20	-0.90	3.77
Japan Growth	32.72	34.69	-1.02	
Managed	93.34	99.30	-1.20	2.41
Money Market	101.60	107.70	+0.20	5.07
North American	135.30	143.40	-0.40	
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trust				
British	149.00	158.50	-2.00	1.89
European Growth	154.30	163.50	-0.70	
Gilt & Fixed Int	105.10	111.50	+0.30	5.90
Income	126.20	134.30	-0.80	3.77
Japan Growth	32.83	34.80	-1.03	
Managed	89.12	94.81	-1.15	2.41
Money Market	93.62	99.73	+0.11	5.07
North American	121.20	128.50	-0.40	
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	147.70	157.18	-2.00	1.89
European Growth	151.10	160.20	-0.20	
Gilt & Fixed Int	94.48	100.20	+0.20	5.82
Income	122.70	130.50	-0.80	3.77
Japan Growth	33.59	35.60	-1.05	
Managed	91.86	97.74	-1.18	2.41
Money Market	84.41	89.46	+0.08	5.10
North American	135.60	143.80	-0.40	
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD				
Dealers: 0171 588 7474 Enquiries: 0171 588 7171				
American Gwth	581.20	615.10	+0.80	
European Gth Inc	614.20	652.50	-6.60	
-do- Accum	620.80	659.60	-6.70	
Intl Gwth	254.80	269.80†	-2.40	
UK Equity Inc	256.20	271.80†	-3.00	3.77
Do. Accum	362.90	385.10†	-4.10	3.77
UK Growth Inc	150.20	160.60	-1.30	2.96
-do- Accum	156.30	167.20	-1.40	2.96
UK Ind Tckr Inc	231.00	248.30	-2.30	2.63
-do- Accum	292.10	311.40	-2.90	2.63
US Eq Ind Trk Inc	363.90	384.70	+1.50	0.88
Japan Tracker	47.73	50.35†	-1.00	
Asian Tracker	137.40	148.16†	-1.10	0.45
Mngd Ptnlo Inc	208.08	221.20	-1.50	1.57
Mngd Ptnlo Acc	230.20	244.90	-1.70	1.57
Deposit Inc	100.25	100.25†	+0.09	6.88
Europe	254.60	271.90	-0.20	
Gentech	218.27	237.10†	-1.20	2.35
High Income	20.46	21.74†	-0.13	10.00
Japan Growth	73.40	77.93	-2.32	
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT				
0345 090 933				
American	117.70	120.20†	-1.00	2.14
Acumen Inc	104.90	107.10†	-0.90	2.14
Acumen Reserve	107.70	108.00†	..	6.31
-do- Inc	78.72	79.50†		6.31
American Growth	78.85	80.55	-0.45	
Equity Income #	122.70	125.80	-1.60	3.83

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Play it again Sam — for big bucks

Film and entertainment memorabilia, from the suits worn in the James Bond films to plastic Star Wars toys, are a relatively new market for the fine art houses, but are being tipped as a good investment with big prices already achieved. **Clare Stewart** reports

TURNER ENTERTAINMENT CO

BBC

Of all the posters in all the world, *Casablanca's* topped the lot, while James Bond's tux and unexterminated Daleks fetch thousands

Yours for just £8,000, one dinner jacket (circa 1971, decorative lapels, silk lined), one owner. Also available, one blue pinstripe suit, also from early 1970s and on offer at £4,500 to £6,500.

You might be forgiven for thinking such prices are just a little on the high side, given that most 1970s suits are more likely to raise sniggers and a price tag in single figures at the average jumble sale.

One four-letter word makes all the difference. Bond ... James Bond. Both the tuxedo and suit were made for Sean Connery in *Diamonds are Forever*, and as highlights of a forthcoming sale of film collectibles at Christie's are likely to turn Bond buffs weak at the knees.

Film and entertainment memorabilia are a relatively new market in auction house terms but one where diverse and sometimes bizarre items can command impressive prices. Film posters, signed photographs, costumes, props, face masks from horror movies — almost anything it seems that has been worn, sat on, touched or associated with a film star or successful production can become collectible.

Film and television-related items can also appreciate rapidly, especially when linked to box-office hits. Some of the ordinary *Star Wars* merchandise, for example, churned out when the film was launched ten years ago, is now fetching over £100 in salerooms. The film and entertainment market is not driven by investors looking to top up their retirement incomes, but by collectors who are keen, if not fanatical, in their pursuit of items whether related to *Star Trek*, *Gone With The Wind* or Marilyn Monroe.

Signed pictures, autographs or letters from stars, have been collected for years but it is a market that at auction, says Ted Owen from Bonhams, is particularly buoyant at present. At a sale in early November, for example, a signed photo of Marilyn Monroe fetched £2,800, he said.

It is not just the importance of the star that determines price, he added, but how inclined they are or were to sign autographs. The signature of actors such as Clint Eastwood or Paul Newman, not known to oblige fans eagerly, are therefore in demand. Items signed by the cast of *Coronation Street* are not.

For would-be collectors, signed memorabilia can be a way into the market that does not involve spending thousands of pounds. Among items for sale at Christie's on December 11, for example, is a collection of publicity photographs of stars associated with Ealing Studios, including Margaret Lockwood, Michael Redgrave and Diana Rigg. The estimate is £150-£250.

A signed photo of Laurel and Hardy is estimated at £250-£300, while a set of letters and photos of Hollywood stars such as Grace Kelly, Ava Gardner and Clark Gable is estimated at £400-£500. Film posters are also very sought-after, whether vintage examples from the 1920s and 30s or from more recent films, particularly if in good condition. Sotheby's has now added a specialist film poster sale in response to growing demand from UK and European collectors. At the last sale in September, a larger poster for *Casablanca* fetched almost £50,000, breaking UK records, while a small window card to advertise *The Maltese Falcon* made £5,200.

In March at its next sale, Sotheby's is expecting big interest in a group of German film posters from the 1920s. "People collect because of a fascination with films, not for investment," said Miles Barton, Sotheby's film specialist. "Things do go in trends. For example, the market for western film posters was at its peak two years ago in the US and has waned since. But generally it is a fairly new market, so things that make a good price tend to retain it."

For would-be collectors auction houses provide a good range of items in sales which may be purely film and entertainment items, or may span related areas such as rock and pop memorabilia.

Smaller auction houses may also include film items among sales of so-called collectibles, a broad category which can cover a wide range of objects from odd gadgets to beer bottles.

There are also specialist dealers, while regional antiques fairs and events, such as the NEC Antiques for Everyone Fairs in Birmingham next year may also provide a good hunting ground.

In spite of the marketing and merchandising hype that surrounds many big films, the big film studios and production companies do not sell off props and costumes to eager fans, although there are very occasional charity sales in the US. Most of the film items that come on the market arrive via people who have worked on a particular film set.

Nor do television companies have sales. Many of the costumes, props and sets used in current BBC series, for example, are hired or reused for other programmes, although there have been one or two sales in the past selling costumes as well as items from *Dr Who*. These are currently very collectible, said Mr Owen, who recently sold a Dalek at auction for £4,500. Whole and entire Daleks are particularly rare as many were broken up.

Fan clubs are another source of memorabilia, both current and historic. The James Bond Fan Club, which has about 5,000 members, sells merchandise and collectors' items and organises conventions for fans. Current Bondabilia is worth collecting, say film specialists, though Sean Connery remains more desirable than Messrs Brosnan, Dalton and Moore.

Christie's sale on December 11 has a wide range of Bond-related items. Apart from Sean Connery's dinner jacket, the selection runs to leatherette bikinis worn in *Octopussy* (£750-£950) and a lifesize cardboard cut-out of Sean Connery (£400-£600).

When it comes to fixing price tags to certain of the film collectables, beauty is clearly in the eye of the collector. Among the oddities expected to interest collectors at Christie's sale is a Satan costume, which includes "knee-high hoof boots in imitation fur," an "oversized codpiece," a gold lurex cape and mask (horns missing). As worn in the film *Legend*, yours for just £4,000 to £6,000.

A large egg used in *Alien* in 1986 could set you back £800 to £1,000, while a replica *Robocop* costume is estimated at £2,000-£3,000. There are also costumes and props from *Batman*, *Superman* and *Star Wars* together with items from more recent films such as *Event Horizon*, *Braveheart* and *Air Force One*.

How much contemporary film posters and marketing material will be worth in the future is uncertain, although items related to the most successful productions may be worth keeping, say the experts.

General awareness of the value of such items has increased. "You can almost see people in cinema lobbies wondering what to ask for," says Sarah Hodgson at Christie's. "Much more is being saved, so film posters, for example, may not be as valuable in the future."

Rarity and condition, as in any collectors' item, is the thing to look for in film memorabilia. As advice to a novice collector, Miles Barton at Sotheby's said: "It is worth saving up to buy decent things such as film posters from the 1920s to 50s." He also highlights areas such as 1960s posters, particularly those for spy films of the era.

True cinema devotees will have to dig a little deeper, however, if they want to secure what is billed as the star attraction of Christie's sale next month: a previously unseen documentary film about the childhood and early life of Charlie Chaplin. The black and white film, made in 1928, is expected to fetch more than £10,000.

CONTACTS

Christie's: December 11. Film and entertainment sale (0171-581 7611).
Bonhams: February 18. Rock, pop and entertainment sale (0171 393 3900).
Sotheby's: March 25. Film memorabilia and poster sale (0171-493 8080).
NEC Antiques for Everyone Fairs (01297 443355).
James Bond Fan Club: (01483 756007).
Collectors' Film Conventions: (0171-736 8511).

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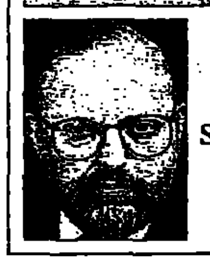
Tokyo's elusive turning point

PERSONAL INVESTOR



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Twenty four years on, it is hard to recapture the gloom that once engulfed the London stock market. An economic and takeover boom under the 1970 Tory government helped prices of shares and commercial property to reach heady peaks in the spring of 1972. Then it all went horribly wrong. Interest rates rose, sterling got into trouble and the economy was already suffering from inflation and a credit squeeze by the time oil prices doubled and trebled at the end of 1973.

A collapse in commercial property values sank a new breed of banks that had financed the development boom. Confidence evaporated from other smaller banks and the Bank of England had to organise a lifeboat. Even NatWest was thought to be on the brink. Companies' equity was transparently cheap, if they stayed in business. A Labour government had little sympathy. As tumbling values hit the security of loans, pension funds and endowment policies, no one could be sure who would go bust next. Rumours that a top company would collapse were finally realised as the new year of 1975 dawned. Burmah Oil, which borrowed heavily against its stake in BP, had to be saved by the Bank of England buying its holding at a bargain price.

By the end of the first week of January 1975, the old FT Industrials 30 share index had lost more than 70 per cent of its value in May 1972. And share values did not break consistently into new higher ground until 1981. Meanwhile, some investors made an awful lot of money. The tide turned when a cartel of insurers bought simultaneously. Within weeks, the index doubled.

The unselective despair felt at that time may be hard to recapture. But it is easy enough to imagine. Just look at Tokyo today. The question is whether similar profits are to be made by buying.

History rarely repeats exactly. It is eight years since rising domestic interest rates pricked Japan's asset price bubble. The Nikkei share index tumbled 60 per cent between New Year 1990 and the summer of 1992. But there was no once-for-all bounce. Doom became a way of life as the economy stalled in recession. Twice more, most recently this month, the Nikkei relapsed to a low of about 15,000, only to rebound anaemically, like a tennis ball that has lost its bounce.

In 1995, the yen grew painfully strong under American pressure before interest rates were cut to levels that are painfully low for savers. This year, the Government's foolishly premature attempt to restore state finances has wrecked the nascent recovery. Uncertainty among consumers and investors is now making things worse amid a tide of collapses typical of the late stages of recession, when any hope of saving a company's finances have gone. Financial stocks are dirt cheap as going concerns, but not if they go bust. Who can be sure there will not be another Yamaichi?

The twin case for buying Japanese shares is that the Government has now seen the need to support the financial system with cash and that even fans of the Tokyo stock market are gloomy. Mercury Asset Management for instance, though proud of the relative performance of its Japanese unit trusts, is not yet trying to drag in the crowds.

There are, as ever, good reasons for continued pessimism. The economy is turning down again as loss of confidence at home combines with the troubles of East Asian customers. Car orders are terrible. European and American investors face other hazards. Japanese business may need a further 10-15 per cent devaluation, eating up any gains in yen share prices. And many companies are hard to rate because profits are not consolidated, making the index appear to trade at 50 times earnings.

Fund managers have also become more sophisticated since 1975. Shell and Cadbury were never likely to have gone bust whatever happened to the UK economy. So investors have kept faith with a Tokyo "nifty fifty" whose profits have kept growing and whose share ratings, on a consolidated basis, are comparable with peers in New York or London. These are mostly multinational groups such as Sony, Fuji Photo, Canon or Hitachi (somewhat less the motor-related issues such as Toyota or Bridgestone) whose management and culture is geared to global competition, plus quality domestic groups with strong brand growth or technology.

Such stocks are not so cheap but offer the best way to back Japan's future. Investors with the nerve to buy financials or smaller companies might make spectacular gains, but may end mentioned in dispatches as gallant fallers.

National Savings provides small comfort for savers

Some good news for savers this week as National Savings increased its rates for the third time since the base rate increase at the beginning of May. Rates on accounts have been increased by up to 0.5 per cent. For instance, on the ordinary instant access account, rates from the beginning of December will now be 2 per cent for balances of between £1 and £499. Those with balances of greater than £499 will earn 3 per cent on their savings.

National Savings has also increased the rate on its monthly income product by 0.25 per cent from January 8 next year. Amounts of less than £25,000 will earn 7 per cent per annum gross, and amounts of more than £25,000 will earn 7.25 per cent. As part of the review of rates, National Savings is adding two tiers on its investment account. Savings of more than £50,000 will now earn 6.5 per cent interest on the investment account.

Rates on the Treasurer's account have also been increased by 0.25 per cent. Savings of between £10,000 and £24,999 will earn 6 per cent interest. Savings of between £25,000 and £99,999 will earn 6.25 per cent, while savings in excess of £100,000 will earn 6.5 per cent. The rate rises come into effect from December 11.

Until recently, National Savings had failed to keep pace with interest rate changes. However, with the further increase in base rates to 7.25 per cent National Savings was unlikely to attract the extra £2.4 billion needed for the organisation to reach the funding target set by the Government at the beginning of the tax year.

In the first six months, it managed to attract net new money of only £613 million. However, this week the Government revealed that it had cut its target to £2 billion.

Cheltenham & Gloucester also increased its savings rates this week. The interest on its instant access account will now be 7.25 per cent gross. The C&G Direct 30 will now pay 7.3 per cent on the top tier of £100,000 or more. The annual rate on the C&G 90-day account moves to 7.35 per cent for savings of more than £100,000. The C&G London account pays 6.25 per cent gross.

The interest rates on National Savings products are set according to the amount of money the Government needs to service the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR). When the PSBR is high, rates on National Savings products need to be high to attract a lot of money. When the PSBR is lower, need not be as high.

Unlike building society interest rates, which are linked to the base rate, the rates offered by National Savings will also rise and fall in line with the yields on gilt-edged securities. Gilt yields are not directly linked to base rates. National Savings rates may remain low despite the fact that base rates have risen by a total of 1.25 per cent over the past six months.

Charles Levett-Scrivener, Towry Law, said that he did not think the National Savings products were particularly attractive. He said: "You can get better rates for lower balances on other products."

Abbey National also increased its rates last week, on many of its accounts rate rises were between 0.25 per cent and 0.3 per cent.

CAROLINE MERRELL

Gartmore

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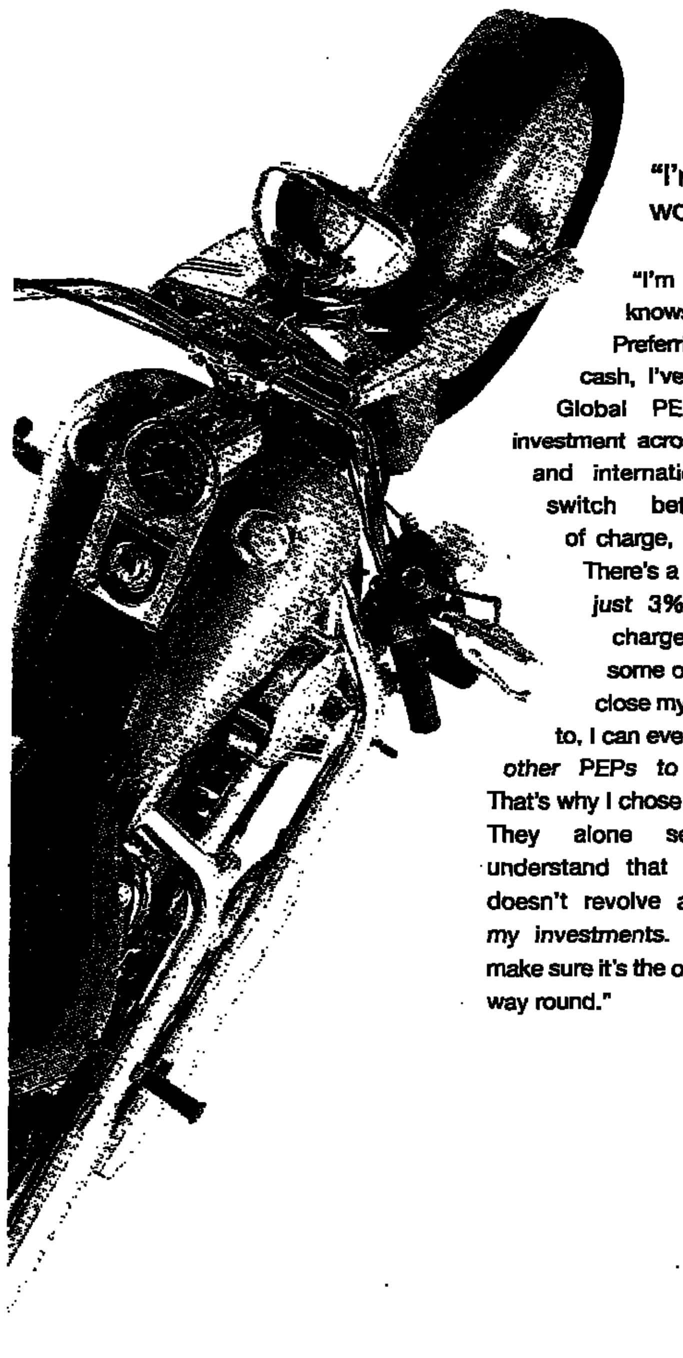

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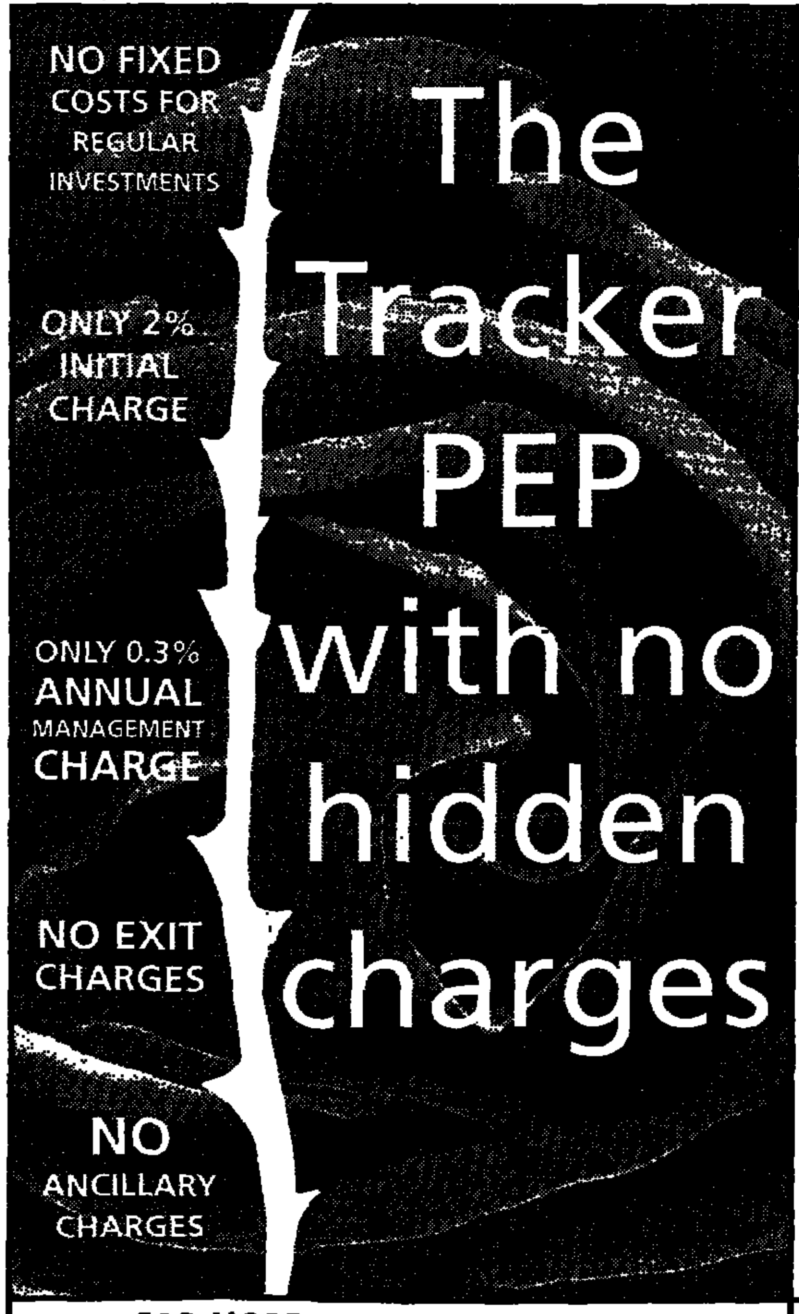

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It's time NS gave us the full Monty

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

There are many riveting sights in *The Full Monty*, the tale of unemployed Sheffield steel workers who take up stripping. But I was transfixed by the short fully-clad scene where the young boy takes out £100 from his National Savings Ordinary account as a loan for his indigent father. For a moment my thoughts drifted from a saga of men regaining their self respect to the story of a savings institution which was losing its way.

A £100 balance in the Ordinary Account is earning a stingy 1.50 per cent. This may be one reason why the child felt the money would be better spent on the skimpy costumes for his father's act. On Monday, the rate will rise to 2 per cent. Although this is an increase of one third, the account will continue to be uncompetitive. Even at the usually less than generous Halifax, the boy could earn 5 per cent, while the Britannia First Savers account offers 7 per cent.

The Ordinary Account change is one of a number of improvements announced this week by National Savings in an attempt to arrest the decline in its business. At the same time, the organisation disclosed that it will now need to contribute just £2 billion to the Exchequer in 1997-98, instead of £3 billion. This is an admission of its failure to offer schemes that the public finds attractive. While Premium Bonds continue to appeal to the nation's fondness for a flutter, there is less interest in the fixed-rate bonds and certificates; despite our predilection for gambling, we are reluctant to take a five-year view on interest rates. A regular savings scheme with instant access and good returns for small monthly contributions would be an excellent addition to the range. But perhaps this would be too popular?

National Savings, which has £62 billion of our money in its care is ultimately controlled by the Chancellor. If he truly wishes us to become thriftier, he should ensure that this part of his empire puts on a better show.

Long-term Brown

BESIDES desiring that we should all save more, Gordon Brown wants us to become "long-termists". In view of this, we presume arrangements will be put in place allowing those with Peps to transfer as much as possible of this cash into the new individual savings accounts. Although some in government circles would like to believe every Pep investor is a plutocrat, the reality is rather different. Millions are saving in Peps to repay mortgages and to supplement pensions, taking the self-help, long-term view Mr Brown so admires.

Home loans temptation

Fixed-rate market is hotting up, says **John Givens**

After a period of post-general election uncertainty, the low-cost, fixed-rate mortgage is making a comeback. A series of interest rate rises by the Bank of England shortly after Labour came to power on May 1 looked like putting an end to some of the spectacular fixed-rate deals on offer to homebuyers, with many experts predicting lending rates would continue to rise.

However, with the future for interest rates looking a little more stable now than just a few months ago, a renewed confidence has entered the fixed-rate mortgage market and lenders are putting their necks on the block by introducing an array of low-cost deals.

According to MoneyFacts, the financial statistics agency, house buyers wanting to fix their mortgage repayments for five years can get a market-leading rate of 5.99 per cent, pegged until February 1, 2003, with Northern Rock, assuming the amount borrowed is no more than 75 per cent of the value of the house.

For people with a smaller deposit, Northern Rock is offering its five-year fix for loans up to 95 per cent at 6.99 per cent, although Coventry Building Society can offer the same deal at 6.5 per cent fixed until March 31, 2003. Borrowers looking for short-term fixes can also benefit from the fierce competition in the market.

Scarborough Building Society is offering rates as low as 1.69 per cent fixed until January 1, 1999, while Northern Rock heads the two-year league table with a rate of 3.99 per cent, pegged until February 1, 2000, for loans up to 75 per cent of the property value.

Although the one and two-year fixed-rate markets are popular, Sally Laker, general manager of Mortgage Intelligence, a home loans broker, says it is the medium-term five-year market that is capturing the imagination of house buyers. She said: "The five-year fixed-rate market has been very competitive in the last few weeks, with a range of attractive deals on offer. I think some lenders are finding themselves holding surplus mortgage funds which they want to sell off before the end of the year and are coming to the market with deals that people cannot resist."

With the variable mortgage rate standing at about 8.7 per cent with most lenders — some have not yet passed on the Bank of England's quarter-point rise on November 6 — it is easy to see why lower rates fixed for a full 60 months are proving so popular.

Louise Pendleton of Bristol & West, which has a five-year mortgage fixed at 6.75 per cent for loans up to 90 per cent of value, says interest in medium-term fixes is strong. "It is a good time to buy a five-year fixed-rate deal and this is certainly where we are seeing most action at the moment."

However, it is not just the rates that are attracting people to take out medium-term fixes. Another important consideration is the likelihood that Britain will opt for European economic and monetary union after Chancellor Gordon Brown's self-imposed five-year stand-off from the rest of the Continent comes to an end.

When Britain does come into line with its European neighbours it will mean UK interest rates will have to fall to the sort of levels seen in countries like France, Germany, Holland and Belgium, where base rates are currently about 3.3 per cent.

With mortgage rates linked to base rates, the size of monthly repayments could fall in the early years of the new millennium.

Because of this many borrowers are looking to fix for the medium term in the hope that when their money saving deal comes to an end they are exposed to a market where the standard variable rate is much lower than it is now.

This means borrowers get the double benefit of a low-cost fixed mortgage now and even lower repayments when the fixed-rate period ends.

Fixed-rate deals can come at a cost that many people don't consider at the outset, with redemption penalties usually being charged if the mortgage holder changes or moves to a new lender within a specified timescale. This is typically six months of interest calculated at the standard variable rate, which on an average £60,000 mortgage would currently mean a penalty of about £2,500.

Even those who have only small deposits are catered for in today's home loans market

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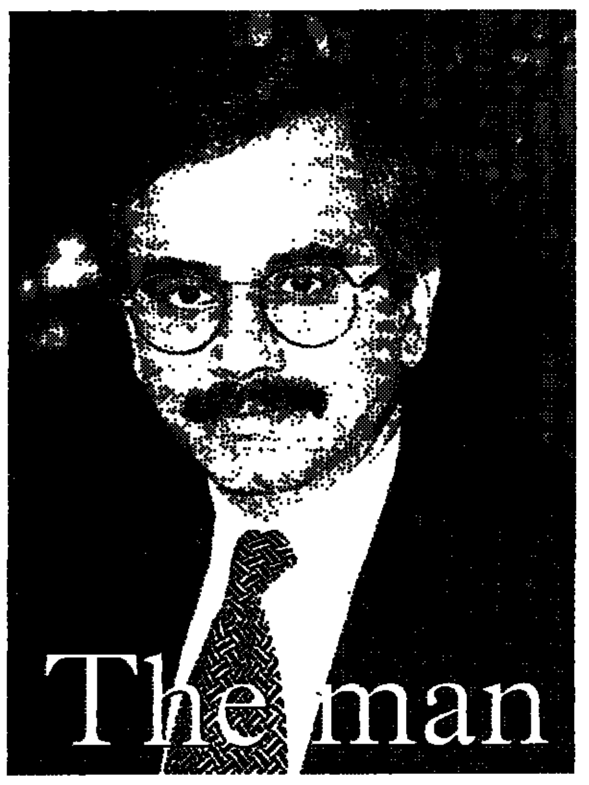

Paul Ham, Money Editor

JAYESH MANEK, who achieved the remarkable feat of turning a notional £10m into £502m to win the 1994 Sunday Times Fantasy Fund Manager competition, is to launch his first UK unit trust later this month.

The Manek Growth Fund will be available as a Pep and aims to invest for long-term capital growth, primarily in a selection of UK equities.

Manek, who came to Britain from Uganda in 1971, was also 1995 Fantasy Fund manager...

...His first "real world" unit trust comes with impeccable credentials: no less an investor than Sir John Templeton, founder of Templeton Growth Fund in 1954, has given it his support. In June 1995, Templeton asked Manek to manage £5m of his personal wealth, raising this to £10m last year. Manek's investment strategy lifted the fund to £13m, all of which will be unitised and placed in his new unit trust...

...[Manek's] strategy will involve identifying a company's intrinsic qualities, including relative strength within its sector and long-term earnings per share growth.

Fantasy Star Launches Fund,
THE SUNDAY TIMES
9.11.1997

NB The hypothetical investment returns gained under the rules of The Sunday Times Fantasy Fund Manager Competitions (1994 & 1995) should not be construed as an indication of real investment returns. The Manek Growth Fund will hold a much broader spread of shares and adopt a longer term investment strategy

The man who came first launches his first UK fund

A winning investor

Jayesh Manek won THE SUNDAY TIMES Fantasy Fund Manager Competitions, not just once – but twice, beating thousands of contestants including many professional fund managers. He walked off with nearly a quarter of a million pounds in prize money.

Since then Jayesh Manek has been preparing for an even bigger event, the launch of the Manek Growth Fund, a new unit trust.

Invest alongside Sir John Templeton

Jayesh's share picking ability has already attracted the attention of Sir John Templeton, the legendary investment guru who established the Templeton Growth Fund in 1954.

In July 1995 Sir John asked Jayesh to manage £5m of his personal funds. He added a further £5m in June last year. On 31 October 1997 this portfolio was worth over £13m and will be transferred into the new Fund.

The Manek Growth Fund and PEP

The Fund is an Authorised Unit Trust and fully PEPable, designed to make Jayesh Manek's investment skills available directly to all investors. It will target outstanding growth opportunities principally through investment in UK equities. It is intended that the Fund will not invest in unquoted companies.

The Manager is Manek Investment Management Limited. Its Chairman is Stanislas Yassukovich CBE, a former Deputy Chairman of the London Stock Exchange and currently Chairman of EASDAQ. The Hon Crispin Money-Coutts, Head of International Private Banking, Coutts & Co is a non-executive director. The Royal Bank of Scotland plc are the Trustees of the Fund.

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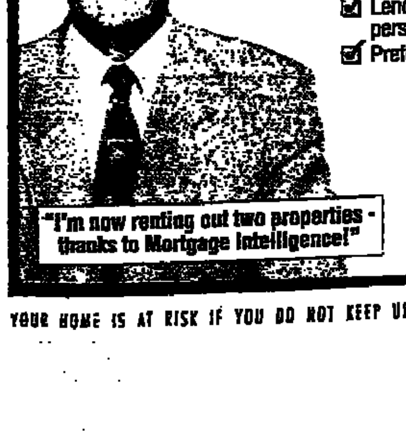

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WEEKEND DEDLEDEE

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هكذا من الاهل

Are you in need of a little protection?

Instability of global markets highlights the advantages of securing a financial safety net, says **Gavin Lumsden**

Stock markets showed their dark side last month knocking £1 billion off the value of investments held in Peps and more than £10 billion from funds held in unit trusts, it was revealed this week. Although in the UK there was no repetition of the crash that hit investors in October 1987, general market instability was enough to devalue Pep holdings from £35.8 billion to £34.8 billion and push unit trust investments down from £162.8 billion to £152.7 billion.

Before you become too depressed, though, it is worth bearing in mind that *both Peps and unit trusts are still well* ahead of their level 12 months ago (£23.8 billion and £128.9 billion respectively) and that the stock market is still reckoned to be the best place for growing your money over the long term.

However, there is no doubt that the going is getting tougher. With fears that economic meltdown in the Far East could lead to a general downturn in world stock markets investors could be wise to consider a change in strategy.

One result of this sea change is likely to be the growing popularity of so-called protected funds. These limit the amount of losses that investors can sustain in falling stock markets, a useful trait if the former Asian "tigers" export their recession to the West.

Around a dozen unit trusts currently offer investors this kind of protection by promising to limit losses to between zero and 5 per cent over a given period, such as three, six or 12 months. A common approach is to protect 95 per cent of investors' capital over three months. At the beginning of each quarter a new floor price is set, below which the fund will not fall, no matter what happens to the markets. This enables investors to lock in *gains that could otherwise be swept away* in a crash.

For example, if markets fell 15 per cent in a quarter, the most that an investor in the above fund could lose is 5 per cent. However, some funds use the precipice approach. If markets fail to rise or fall slightly the fund will automatically default to a 5 per cent loss.

Nevertheless, protected funds can be a useful stepping stone for first-time investors who are used to the security of a building society. However, more experienced investors can also benefit by protecting the gains they achieved in more bullish markets.

Fund managers achieve this protection in two ways. The first does not involve buying shares at all, which might seem *strange for a stock market investment.* Funds such as the top-performing Prolific Objective Limited Risk Equity and Govett UK Safeguard will put up to 95 per cent of your money in cash or fixed-interest vehicles where they are safe and earn interest. The rest is spent on options linked to indices, such as the FTSE 100, which provide exposure to stock market growth without buying the underlying stocks.

Alternatively, fund managers do buy shares and will then buy a put, another form of derivative, to provide protection against a fall in markets. Funds such as Govett UK Equity Safeguard (note the difference) and NatWest Safeguard take this approach, which enables the funds to be put into the tax-free shelter of a Pep.

All this protection comes at a price. Most of these funds do not yield a dividend (except Prolific Objective), even though they are invested in shares that do. Reinvesting dividends constitutes a third of the total return you can expect *from the stock market over the long term.* On top of this, protected funds are relatively expensive, charging around 5.5 per cent initial and 1.25 per cent annual *management* fees.

Although the locking in of gains offsets these expenses to a certain extent, even the managers of successful protected funds admit they only provide 80-90 per cent of total stock market returns. Over the long term this could have a detrimental effect, but on a *shorter time scale* could be less significant.

The Close UK Escalator 95 unit trust has been a good example of the advantage of locking in over the past three years. While the FTSE 100 has fallen 4.2 per cent and the average UK unit trust has slipped by 1 per cent, the Close fund *has contained losses by rising a slight* 0.3 per cent. Over one year it has turned £1,000 into £1,211.93, not bad considering the FTSE 100 bull run would have added only £70 more. The Prolific fund did even better, returning £1,237.08.

For further information contact Prolific Objective on 0171-280 3700; Close Fund Management on 0800 268824; AIB Govett Unit Trusts on 0845 300 9090.

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Customer loyalty is being tested to the full, says **Susan Emmett**

Gloves are off in the battle of the banks

The launch of the Virgin One bank account in the new year will show how many people are willing to turn their backs on the high street banks, although dissatisfaction with the traditional banks is already causing thousands to switch accounts.

Once upon a time, the British were more likely to *divorce than to change banks.* A relationship with a bank manager was a life-long commitment. But higher expectations of standards of service have changed the way account holders approach their banks, and increasing competition means that disgruntled customers are spoilt for choice.

Richard Branson's Virgin One, which works as a joint flexible mortgage and bank *account, has been billed as one* of the most innovative on the market. Thousands of Virgin Direct customers have expressed an interest in opening a Virgin One account since its launch earlier this month. Many more are expected to join in the new year when the account opens to the general public.

Customers move their accounts for a variety of reasons. Some grow so irritated by the closure of their branch that they opt for a telephone banking service, such as First Direct, a division of the Midland. One NatWest customer *switched to First Direct when* NatWest closed her two nearest branches. She said: "When my account was transferred to a third branch, I found the service wanting. When an institution stops being the friendly bank around the corner, you may as well go to a telephone banking service. I'm delighted with First Direct."

Despite the ferocious competition from telephone-based services, the traditional banks are still picking up disaffected customers from each other. This year *more than 130,000 people* opened an account with First Direct, some 150,000 joined the Halifax, and Barclays says it has had an "outstanding year", attracting around one million new customers.

The other high street names are reticent to disclose figures they describe as "financially sensitive information", perhaps because they lag behind their competitors.

All banks go to great lengths to advertise the simplicity of moving your account, offering various incentives. Barclays, for example, gives new customers five £2 vouchers to be *spent at the cinema, while* First Direct has mailing list campaigns offering new customers £15.

Most banks say your new account will be ready within a month if all goes well, although the Halifax says that two months is more realistic. Whatever the delay, changing your current account requires a lot more effort than filling in a form and signing on the dotted line and many people are put off by the paperwork. According to a survey by *Which?* some 35 per cent of people thinking of moving banks believe the process is too complicated, while 31 per cent admitted that they could not be bothered.

Barclays and the Halifax are the fastest when it comes to sending out bank cards and chequebooks. It takes the Halifax two to three days and Barclays less than five days.

Payments from a salary or a pension, have to be transferred. Direct debits and standing orders will need changing and any organisation or person who has ever paid into your account will have to be contacted.

NatWest says it will make all the direct debit changes and set up new standing orders within two days. But as most of these changes involve a third party, it will take a lot longer before you can say goodbye to your old bank. But the speed with which you can close your old account can often depend on how much notice your employer requires to transfer your salary. You *might have to wait a month to* transfer your salary, in which case moving your account can take a lot longer.

However long it takes, most banks advise new customers not to close their old accounts until the teething problems are over. Having two accounts can be confusing, so planning ahead and keeping track of payment changes and the balances is imperative.

The amount of help you get will depend on your new bank. TSB and Barclays will actually make all the transfers themselves. Most banks, however, will issue new customers with an information pack containing details of what to do and who to contact.

Both Lloyds and First Direct offer a free overdraft facility of £250 during the period of transition. Some banks have also promised to pay for their mistakes. Midlands and the Co-operative Bank pay their customers £10 for a mistake, *and they do happen. The Co-op* makes, on average, 600 mistakes a month.

Other incentives offered by banks include discounts on their other products. Midland offers a 2 per cent discount on personal loans within the first six months, and the Halifax will give new customers a £30 cashback on buildings insurance.

Building societies, such as Nationwide, hope to attract new current account customers with better interest rates. Even accounts under £2,000 earn 1.25 per cent interest per month, on average 1 per cent higher than most current accounts.

Any bank will tell you how much it values customers. Barclays prides itself on spotting customers who look as though they might leave and persuading them to change their minds. It has a 10 per cent success rate, but the bank still loses 8 per cent of its customers a year, half of those through death.

Pauline Hesketh, new customer manager at First Direct, emphasises that moving banks to get better service is worth the temporary inconvenience. "Many people think moving banks is a scary thing. There is a fear of transfer. But if you are not getting the service you want, then move. If you take control and do it all at your own pace there should not be a problem."

Those prepared to move often go from one of the market leaders to another. First Direct may have broken the merry-go-round by poaching *customers off Barclays,* Lloyds, NatWest and Midland, but despite the increase in competition on the high street the public are still reluctant to switch.

As a result most people stick to the big four, even though the *Which?* survey revealed that they were the most dissatisfied customers. Common complaints include impersonal service, inadequate facilities, high charges and poor interest rates. Those who do move go elsewhere because of problems they have had with a bank rather than because they can get a better deal.

Brian Capon, of the British Bankers Association, said: "People are more prepared to move nowadays than they used to be. Customers are more aware. But often they will only change because they are particularly unhappy about something."

SIMON WALKER

Direct route can pay

Getting to the bank was a problem for 23-year-old Jodi Cornofsky until she moved to telephone banking with First Direct. As events manager at the Connaught Rooms, the dinner and banqueting halls in London, she is in charge of organising functions — from small board meetings to dinner dances for more than 400 people (Susan Emmett writes).

Working long and irregular hours meant that Jodi could never spare the time to visit her local branch of Barclays Bank. It only took two months in her first job before she decided to move away from the bank where she had held her student account. "It was too much hassle. I could not get to the bank and get anything done," she said. "I work really long hours and it's just easier to do telephone banking. It means I can collapse when I get home at 9 o'clock at night and pay the bills, which are always waiting for me. It's just a lot more convenient."

Jodi had no direct debits or standing orders to transfer so most of the paperwork was done over the phone. The only bother was informing her employer of her new bank details and waiting for her next salary to be paid into her new account. But according to Jodi it was worth it. "In this industry, you might have to work the weekend and get a day off during the week but the last thing you want to do on your day off is go down to the bank to sort things out," she said.

MOVING TIPS

Salary or pension. Ask your employer how long it takes to change payments to your new account. Give them your new details but allow plenty of time for alterations to be made. It could take a minimum of a month to make these changes.

Standing orders and direct debits. Make sure you have enough funds in your new account when transferring *standing orders and direct* debits. Remember it may take a while for your salary to be paid into your new account. You will need to contact all the companies who you pay by direct debit and give them your new bank details.

It is advisable to cancel your old standing orders before passing on the details of all the people or organisations you are paying in this way to your new bank. This will help you to make sure that payment is not made twice.

Take control. Banks do help new customers to move from another bank, but it is best to check both your accounts regularly to see whether your instructions are being carried out and payments are going through correctly. Do not rely on the bank entirely. The sooner a mistake is spotted the easier it is to put right.

For further information, ring for a free British Bankers Association Factsheet on 0171 216 8801.

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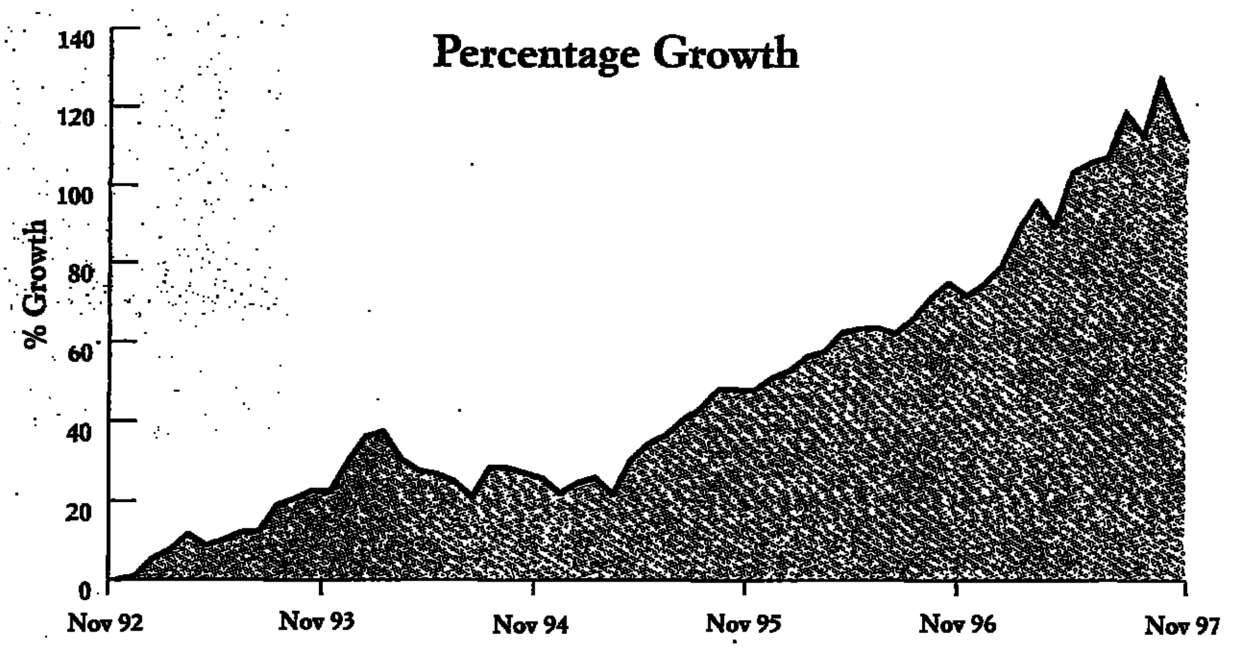

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*FPR - Unit-linked Pension Survey,September 1997

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Yet another survey, of best buys, by the authoritative industry journal Money Management in October gave The Equitable's monthly contribution personal pension a five star rating - the highest possible.

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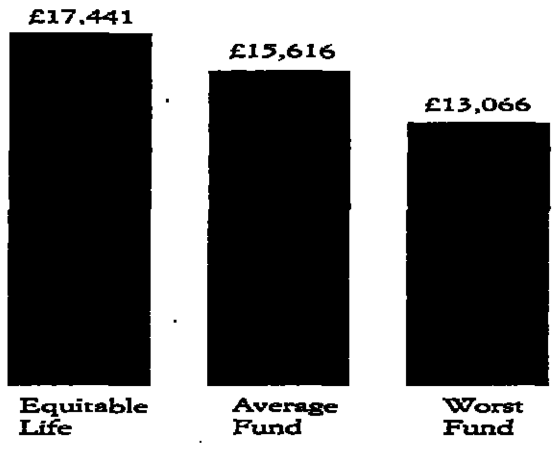

**** Actual open market option as at 1 July 1997
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Source:Planned Savings, October 1997

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The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Tom Whitelaw, of Bearsden in Scotland

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Is Mr Manek just too good to be true?

Patrick Collinson looks at the man behind a much-hyped new fund

ANDRE CAMARA

Investment prescription: Jayesh Manek says his stock-picking theory was honed behind the pharmacy counter

Is Jayesh Manek the man from a small Ruislip pharmacy who beat the City pinstripes hands down at their own game? Or is he the newcomer without a track record inviting people to invest at a time of great stock market uncertainty?

Investors now have the chance to take a punt on Mr Manek, who this week unveiled his Imro-authorised Peppable unit trust to compete against City giants such as Schroders and M&G. Such is the Manek "buzz" that talk of the trust taking £100 million — unheard of for an unknown company — is gaining ground. Already more than 20,000 investors have requested information. But investment advisers, while sharing in the excitement, are warning clients to tread cautiously.

The Manek investment fairytale began in 1994 when he entered *The Sunday Times* fantasy investment league. He became a stock market sensation when his notional investment of £10 million soared to £502 million, earning him prize money of £100,000. Then next year he did it again. Against 14,000 other entrants after a change in the rules, he turned the £10 million into £57.5 million.

The City took notice. Mr Manek was chased by headhunters offering lucrative salaries to join big institutions. But Mr Manek brushed them aside, convinced that the big investor atmosphere would crush his flair.

Then in July 1995 he received an offer he could not refuse. He was approached by the revered investment guru Sir John Templeton, who asked him to manage £5 million of his personal fortune. So happy was Sir John with the results that a year later he added another £5 million. Since then the total investment has grown to £13 million, all of which will go into the new unit trust.

However, the picture of the small high street chemist dispensing share tips amid the paracetamol is not entirely correct — he admits he has not worked behind the counter for seven years. The Manek family built a chain of eight pharmacies, including a site at Charing Cross station in London, since bought by Boots.

In 1990 he was in talks to create a new national chain of chemists with a view to a stock market flotation. Today, even after selling half of his pharmacies to Boots and Superdrug, Mr Manek's company still has a £3.5 million a year turnover.

"I started a business from scratch over 17 years ago. It gives me a good feel for businesses which are at certain stages in their growth, with figures such as cashflow telling me a lot," said Mr Manek, a firm believer in company fundamentals rather than the bigger economic picture. "It's pointless trying to time the market. People spend too much time worrying about the market rather than individual stocks."

Investors hoping that Mr Manek will match the phenomenal returns of his fantasy fund will almost certainly be disappointed. He admits he has taken a lower-risk approach to managing Sir John's £10 million and that the target of the new fund will be cautiously to outperform the FTSE. "When you take on someone else's money, you become very cautious. The principles are the same, but you start balancing the risk/reward ratio differently."

He intends to stay out of the City and will manage the new fund from premises in Ruislip. "The biggest advantage I have is flexibility. I am not restricted by parameters, benchmarks and house views which mean many excellent fund managers cannot act independently."

His skill is not about picking stocks at rock-bottom prices — bottom fishing in stock market parlance — but hitching a ride on those which are already rising. He picks Blacks Leisure, the sports retailer, as an example. "You could see the transition the company was going through with the success of First Sport. The directors started buying when the shares were at 60p. Eight weeks later they were at 180p. They had gone up by three times and yet I bought at that point. I bought some more when they were at 300p. They are now about 470p." His view is that if a concept works across 40 stores, there is no reason why it cannot work in 400, keeping the share price momentum going.

TRUST WATCH

He admits that running a trust with 35-40 stocks will be new territory, as he has focused on just three to four shares in the past and that he has no formal track record.

But he points to his success as an adviser to the India Value investment trust, which is up 9 per cent over the past 18 months in spite of a sharp fall in the Bombay market. It compares well against the 14 per cent fall in a rival Indian investment trust run by Flemings in the same period.

Other rivals point out that his success with Sir John's money is matched or bettered by many other managers. If Sir John had invested in a Perpetual trust, it would also have returned £13 million, while the Slater Growth fund would have achieved about £18 million.

Mr Manek is, however, a modest man who knows his limitations. He admits to his mistakes, such as a disastrous purchase of shares in Fisons. He paid £5 a share, and bought more even after they had fallen to £2.45. His hoped-for takeover bid appeared — but at only about £2 a share. "I had become too attached to the stock. Its performance became a personal thing. I'd be much more ruthless now."

[illegible]

Weekend Money asked a number of investment advisers to give their views on Mr Manek's new fund. Some were very enthusiastic, while others took a more cautious line.

■ ***Graham Hooper,* investment director of Chase de Vere Investments**

"I do have a number of concerns. What is the financial back-up behind the company? What is the track record? It is a great story but a bit of a tricky one. He has not got a material track record and we would have to sit down and talk with him before recommending this to clients.

"I really hope that it does well, it could shake the City up, but it's not the thing for a first-timer moving money out of a building society."

■ **Mark Dampier of Churchill Investments**

"He comes with some great credentials, and investment advisers cannot ignore it. But I would like to see the whites of his eyes before I recommend it. A lot of people will not buy a fund unless it has a five-year track record, although I am more willing to look at a new launch.

"I'm genuinely interested in it and there is no reason why he cannot do well, but I do wonder what it is that is unique about his stock selection."

■ **John Spiers, chairman of BESt Investments**

"I would be a little nervous if he has made his money in small cap stocks — can he replicate that with large caps? I would want to see what sort of resources he has to back him up. What happens if he falls under a bus?

"A company like Schroders can wheel out another ten great fund managers, but can this company? Normally I would not touch this sort of thing with a bargepole, but I am impressed by the connection with Sir John Templeton. The fact that he added in more money after his first investment makes me more comfortable."

■ **Chris Wicks of Kidson Impey Scott Lang**

"It is rather an unfortunate time to launch a new fund. We are only doing a very limited amount of equity investment and are advising clients to sit on cash while the market is in turmoil.

"The fact that Sir John Templeton has put cash in is a pretty strong endorsement, but we would be very selective about recommending it. It shouldn't be your first investment, but if you have extra funds and you want a bit of fun, then why not?"

■ ***Amanda Davidson* of Holden Meehan**

"I think it's fantastic. People love success stories, and if he can replicate this for private investors, he is bound to get a lot of interest. I would not regard it as a core holding but I would certainly consider putting a bit in.

"You could invest the bit you can afford to risk — this carries a heavy wealth warning — but if you look elsewhere in the world, where are you going to put your risk money? Look what's happening in Japan, the Far East and other emerging markets."

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It has been announced that the tax treatment of PEPs will change from 6th April 1999

هكذا من الأصل

John Givens explains why credit unions are becoming so popular today and how they operate

Back to basics of mutuality

GRAHAM COX/SWNS

Building societies and insurance companies might well be shedding their mutual colours by the shipload but as long as credit unions exist the benefits of mutuality will still be on offer to savers and borrowers.

Credit unions are institutions that go back to the very basics of mutual status, offering people judged to have a common bond the chance to save on a regular basis and earn interest rates above those they would normally find in the high street, as well as the possibility of being able to borrow funds on preferential terms.

About 215,000 people are members of one of the 585 credit unions in Britain which hold assets of more than £116 million. The rapid growth in the industry is partly due to legislation introduced last year which relaxed some of the regulations credit unions have to work under, although another key reason *for the rising number of unions* in recent years has been a combination of low interest rates paid on savings accounts by banks and building societies and the often punitive rates charged by specialist lenders targeting borrowers deemed to be high-risk.

The law allows any number of people to get together and form a credit union as long as each member can prove he has a common bond with the others. For example, working for the same company, being a member of the same club or society or even living in the same area would be considered justification for forming a credit union.

The UK's biggest union is made up of more than 11,000 employees of Strathclyde council, while the largest and oldest community-based group is also in Scotland, having nearly 5,000 members all living on the same housing estate in Clydebank.

The minimum number of members needed to set up a credit union is 21 although, according to the Association of British Credit Unions, one of the four bodies representing the credit union movement in the UK, a new group should be looking to recruit about 300 members within five years to give it a chance to build up its resources. A one-*off fee of £310 is payable at the start to* the Registry of Friendly Societies, a division of the Building Societies Commission, which is responsible for regulating credit unions.

In addition, each union pays £25 a year to file its accounts with the Registry of Friendly Societies and must also take out an annual fidelity insurance bond which covers the group against fraud or theft. This is linked to the size of the assets and is likely to cost no more than £100 in the early years.

Interest on savers' funds is paid in the form of an annual dividend from the credit union's profits after costs. These are divided among members on a pro rata basis on the size of their deposit. However, it is with borrowing where the real benefit of credit unions comes to the fore. Many of the people who save through credit unions, particularly those that are community based, are on low incomes and have difficulty getting loans or overdrafts through banks and building societies.

Therefore they are often forced to turn to the specialist lenders which will load the amount of interest payable on a loan to reflect the belief that they are higher than normal risk. *In some cases annual rates are as* much as 160 per cent compared with the average rate at leading banks or building societies of about 15 per cent.

As long as a member has been saving for at least three months, a standard credit union can offer a loan of up to £5,000 — or £10,000 for larger unions — although it must keep 10 per cent of its assets as a reserve. The amount a member can borrow is normally limited to five times the sum saved and cannot exceed 1.5 per cent of the union's total assets.

The decisions on borrowing are taken by a committee which is democratically elected by the members and the committee cannot charge interest on the funds at more than 1 per cent a month, which is equal to an APR of 12.68 and as competitive as any loan you could find from the leading names in the high street.

Although some of the biggest credit unions use credit reference agencies to check out people applying for loans, most do not and base the decision on the individual circumstances and integrity of the member. This means that anyone with a patchy financial history can still be offered a loan if they can convince the committee that they have *the ability and intention to repay it.*

Anyone getting into arrears is sent a series of three reminders. If the problem continues they are asked to attend an interview with the credit union committee to discuss the problem.

Association of British Credit Unions (ABCU): 0171 582 2626.

From a small beginning

Redcliffe Action Group, based in Bristol, is hoping to set up its own credit union to help to encourage people living in the city centre community to save regularly.

The action group, which will become one of 50 new credit unions established in the UK every year, hopes that a union will give residents a new sense of purpose in a conurbation which has had its problems in recent years, including drug abuse, car theft, violence and burglary.

The group, which has eight members already committed to the credit union idea, is expanding the Christmas club principle it set up in November last year where members pay in £5 a week and will get £260 at the beginning of December to help to cover the cost of the festive season.

Irene Mays, the chairwoman, who runs the group with the help of David White, the secretary, both pictured above, said: "People will be able to pay in as little or as much as they can afford each week, even just 50p, and as long as they have saved for at *least 13 consecutive weeks,* they will be able to apply for a loan which they can repay each week at the same rate as they are saving."

Ms Mays added: "We have applied to use a couple of rooms in a former doctor's surgery on the estate and by the time we get the go-ahead to start having regular meetings, we will have obtained more information on how to run it and hopefully will get the credit union started before Christmas."

The group's biggest challenge will be to attract the extra 13 members it needs to satisfy the credit union regu*lations of a minimum mem*bership of 21 people.

HOW TO RUN A CREDIT UNION

- At least 21 members *must be willing to join* the credit union.
- A one-off joining fee of £310 is payable to the Registry of Friendly Societies.
- An additional £25 is charged each year when accounts are filed.
- Fidelity insurance must be taken out to protect against theft and fraud.
- Members must appoint a committee which will make decisions on loan applications and other issues.
- Members can ask for a loan after they have been saving for at least 13 consecutive weeks.
- Loans of up to £5,000 can be agreed, or £10,000 for the larger credit unions.
- Borrowing is usually limited to a maximum of five times the amount the member has saved.
- No loan can be for *more than 1.5 per cent of* the credit union's total assets.
- Interest on loans is pegged at a maximum of 1 per cent a month, 12.68 per cent APR.
- Unions must keep 10 *per cent of their assets as* a reserve.

Financial services 'kitemark'

Like household appliances, car windows and plastic toys, the information consumers get on their pensions and mortgages will also be subject to a Quality Mark similar to the British Kitemark. In a new initiative, launched this week by the Money Management Council, a charity dedicated to providing consumer education on money matters, literature distributed by the financial services industry will receive a Quality Mark if the information is clear and accurate.

It will apply initially to generic information on financial services, but council members hope to extend it to all forms of financial marketing material. The scheme has been welcomed by the industry and the Financial Services Authority, the new super-watchdog.

Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, also welcomed the scheme, as did Sir Bernard Ingham. Ms Liddell said: "The problems of home income plans and personal pensions, to name only two of those which feature in my mailbag, have left many people apprehensive about approaching the financial services industry. This is a time when people need as much information as possible about how to make the most of their financial resources. I believe the Money Management Council has shown foresight and tenacity in bringing the Quality Mark into being."

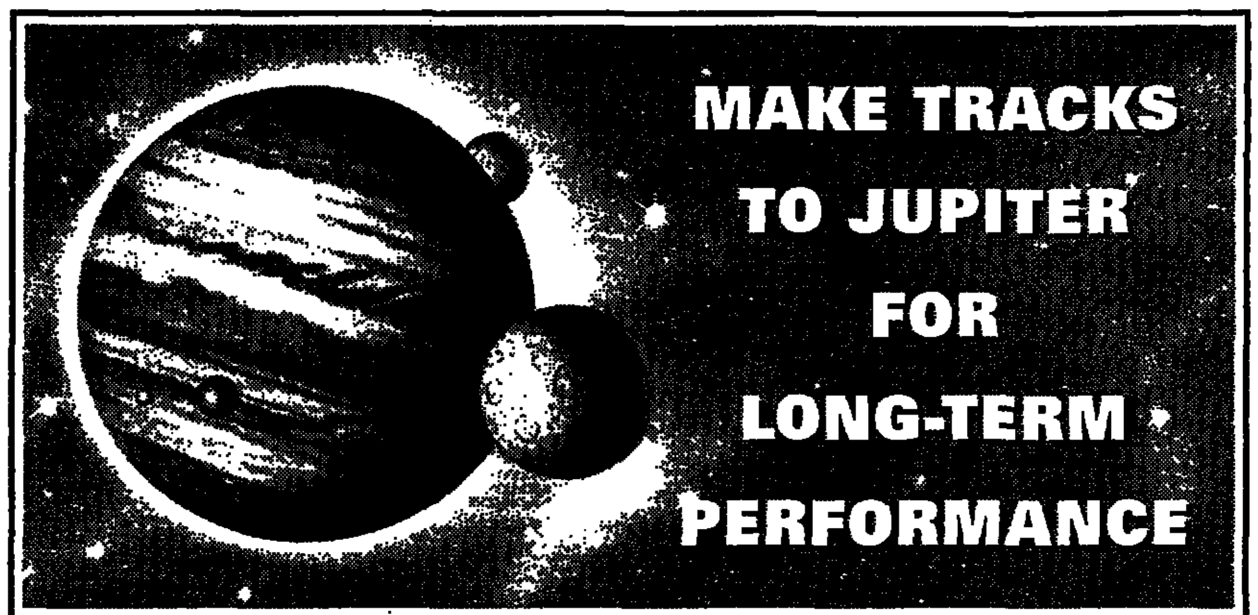
The cost of financial igonorance is a startling £39 billion a year, according to Marie Jennings, chairman and founder of the Money Management Council. It is also estimated that the average person loses £50,000 in a lifetime through lack of knowledge on money matters.

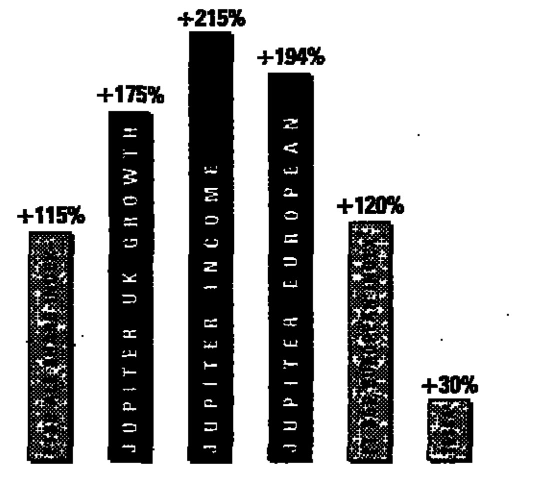
At the launch, timed to coincide with National Consumer Week, Ms Jennings said: "There is no doubt that much financial information is confusing, if not frightening. We intend to overcome this with our new Quality Mark scheme."

However, the scheme will work on a purely voluntary basis. Although there is no compulsion for companies to submit material, the council hopes that the credibililty associated with the mark will encourage financial providers to send in material. The scheme will enable consumers to know that any material carrying the Quality Mark is unbiased, factually correct and easy to understand.

Sir Bernard, former press secretary to Margaret Thatcher, better known for his notoriety as a communicator, said: "In my opinion, there is nothing wrong with a clear and direct approach. I welcome this initiative to increase transparency in money matters." For further information ring the Money Management Council on 0171-736 1163.

SUSAN EMMETT





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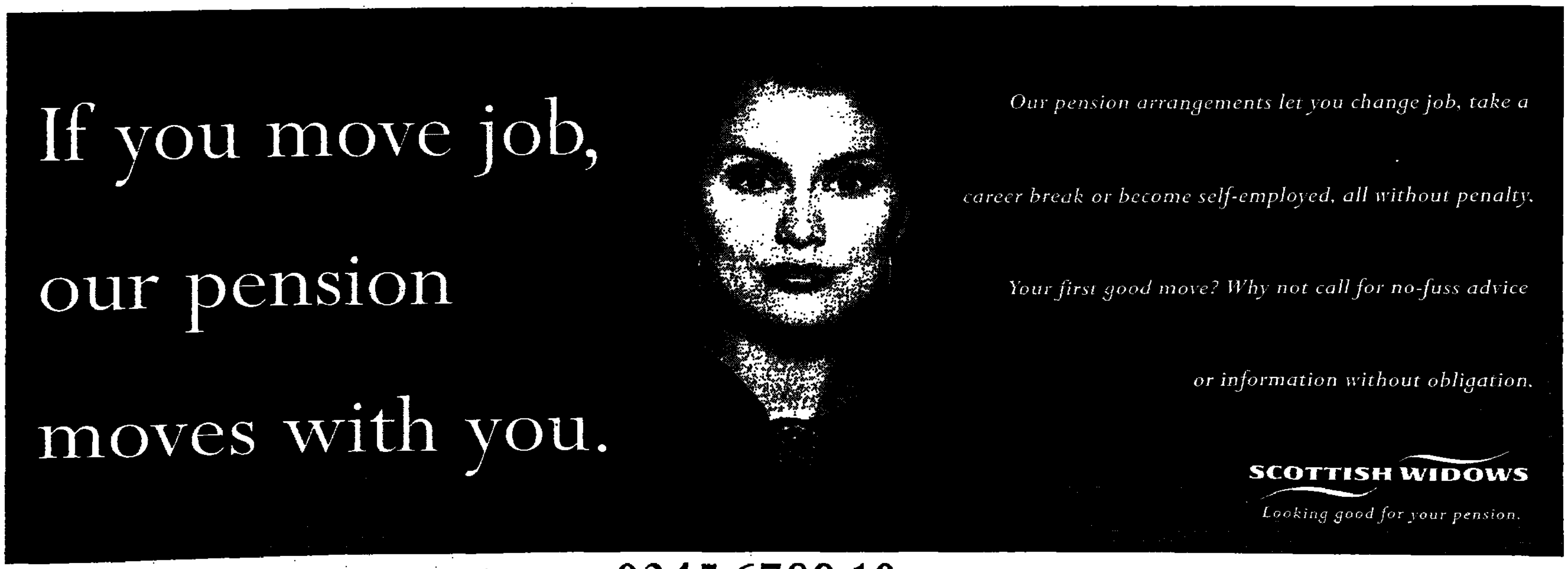
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The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Tom Whitelaw, of Bearsden in Scotland

هكذا من الاصل

Tim rose to his online fitness challenge

PETER TREVNOR

Tim Kyndt made more than 70 pitches to companies in the health and fitness market

Former pharmaceutical expert Tim Kyndt had little choice but to throw himself in at the deep end when he set up an online health and fitness club last year.

The 37-year-old left his job as a strategy development manager with SmithKline Beecham in January 1996 to set up CyberSport, an Internet-based system which allows people to plug their exercise machines into their computers and compete on screen against other keep fit fanatics around the world.

Although he established the business with two colleagues the responsibility for selling the company's services fell firmly at Tim's feet and he had little choice but to get out and about to try to get people to buy the online service.

He said: "After doing a lot of market research we rang around the major companies to set up appointments with people who could make decisions. When we had got a foot in the door we went along with a comprehensive business plan and presented them with key reasons why they should get involved in the project.

"In total we made more than 70 pitches to companies operating in the health and fitness market, and to banks and other financial institutions, and we now have 15 partners very active in promoting the online service."

Although it tested his abilities, his hard work paid off and as sales increased the company was boosted by winning a £50,000 Information Society Initiative award in a scheme sponsored by *The Sunday Times*.

JOHN GIVENS

John Givens continues our series for those intending to become self-employed

Sales skills make or break

SELLING

Until now it has all been done for you. No need to worry about where the work is coming from because as an employee all you need to concern yourself with is having enough to fill your day and leave the problems of winning business to someone else.

But now you've decided to go it alone things are going to change dramatically and the responsibility for selling your products or services is yours and yours alone. Selling is one of the major challenges of self-employment and unless you were an award-winning super-salesman previously, the learning curve will be steep. A reputable sales training course would help, although at £300 to £400 a day they are expensive; so understanding the basics might be the best place to start.

■ **Talk to the decision maker.** If you try to sell to a person who does not have the authority to make a decision to buy, the chances are you are wasting your time.

■ **Be yourself.** The notion that sharp-suited, fast-talking salesmen make the world go round is simply not true. Most people are put off by Arthur Daley types who give you the hard sell and expect you to sign on the dotted line there and then. Avoid play acting and always be yourself.

■ **Be prepared.** This doesn't just mean making sure you know everything about what you are marketing, but also that you have all the back-up support you need. For example, a company brochure or other product literature will be key to getting your sales message across, although you can expect to spend at least £1,000 for 500 copies of a colour, four-page, A4 publication. Leaflets are less expensive, costing around £200 for 1,000 colour A4 flyers; much less for black and white.

Samples of your work can also go a long way to convincing a sceptical customer to buy; and also make sure you are armed with price lists, product specifications, delivery information and any other facts and figures you can offer to a potential buyer.

■ **Understand the customer.** If you know very little about the company or person you are trying to sell to, the chances of failing leap. Make sure you do some research beforehand.

■ **Know your lines.** When you meet someone who might be interested in buying what you have to sell you will need to give a sales presentation. You should make your pitch in a confident and well-structured manner, and also be able to answer any questions.

Successful selling is not about talking but about listening; that way you will hear what the customer wants. If you can satisfy the requirement, you'll almost certainly make the sale. A sales presentation should typically mean you spend one third of the time talking and the other two thirds listening.

■ **Your unique selling point.** All businesses need to have a unique selling point, commonly referred to as a USP. This is simply one thing you can offer which is better than any of your competitors. Your USP could be one of a number of things — the cheapest, the best quality, the fastest delivery, the most comprehensive guarantee or the most flexible payment terms. Whatever it is, learn it and make sure your customers know it.

■ ***Overcoming objections.*** As any diehard salesman will tell you, overcoming people's objections for not wanting to buy is the biggest test you will face. Often, an apparent objection is really hiding the real reason why a customer says no, so find out exactly what the real problem is with careful questioning.

For example, if someone says your product is too expensive but you know it is one of the most competitively priced on the market, by politely asking questions you might discover that the real reason for the objection is that the customer cannot afford to buy at the moment but could in two months' time. Having identified the real problem, you might decide to give the customer the product now on the understanding that payment is due after 60 days.

■ **Ask for the sale.** One of the main reasons why self-employed people fail to win business is that they are scared to ask for the sale. Despite spending time and effort on a sales presentation, most people still shy away from asking "will you buy what I am selling?". This is partly because of the fear of rejection and partly because it can be embarrassing. But if you don't ask, you risk losing the business.

■ **Keep your promises.** If you have told a customer you will do something, make sure you stick to the commitment. Failing to carry out promises is a certain way of losing the support of an existing client or the interest of a potential customer. Even if you have problems doing what you said you would do, at least let the customer know rather than bury your head in the sand.

■ **Don't give up.** The only certain thing about trying to sell whatever you have to offer is that you will suffer setbacks.

Hardern's three-pronged attack

Carpetbagging is not dead, it seems. Michael Hardern, the eccentric freelance butler, is once again campaigning to get on the boards of three leading building societies to try to force them to convert.

Mr Hardern, who heads an organisation called Members for Conversion, is attempting to be elected to the boards of the Bradford & Bingley, Britannia and Chelsea. All three claim they are firmly committed to remaining mutual building societies — the total combined assets of the three societies is £40 billion, and the societies have nearly 4.6 million members.

Earlier this year, Mr Hardern and four other pro-conversion candidates failed to join the board of the Nationwide, the UK's biggest building society. Mr Hardern's ultimate aim was to force the society to float. Flotation of the Nationwide could have been worth up to £2,000 per member.

At the time, the vote against Mr Hardern was decisive. Only one in three of those that voted were in favour of Mr Hardern's election. However, his campaign was marred by a series of bizarre events, including a sudden change of mind over his views on conversion. Many believe that his eccentric behaviour in the run up to the vote contributed to the campaign's failure.

Some of those who voted against Mr Hardern were not voting in favour of the mutuality much coveted by the Nationwide board. Instead, they were voting against the election of people who they believed did not have the credentials for board membership.

The failure of the vote meant that the carpetbaggers went into abeyance for a little while. Mr Hardern's renewed campaign is bound to stir up interest in carpetbagging once again. Mr Hardern claims that if the three building societies were forced to convert, members could receive payouts of up to £2,000 a piece.

During the summer, carpetbagging activity was so intense that the Nationwide was forced to close its doors. This society also recently began to force those opening accounts to sign away to charity their rights to any windfall after flotation.

The building societies under threat from Mr Hardern fear that a renewed bout of carpetbagging activity will lead to further disruptions in the service they offer their customers. In order for his board nominations to go ahead, Mr Hardern needs signatures from 50 of members of each of his target building societies. The elections will take place at the beginning of next year.

The minimum amounts required to open accounts with the Britannia, Chelsea and Bradford & Bingley are £2,000, £2,500 and £500 respectively.

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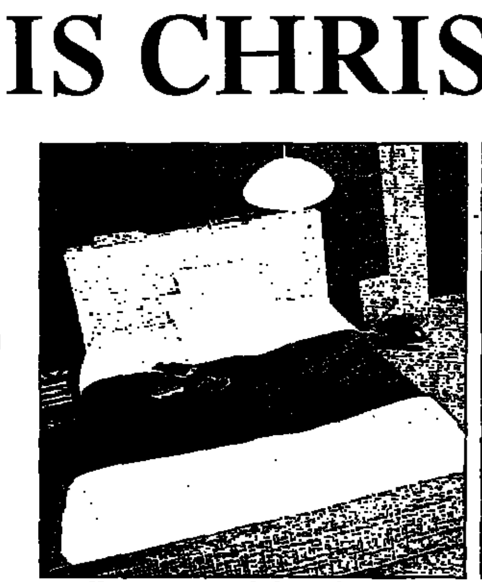
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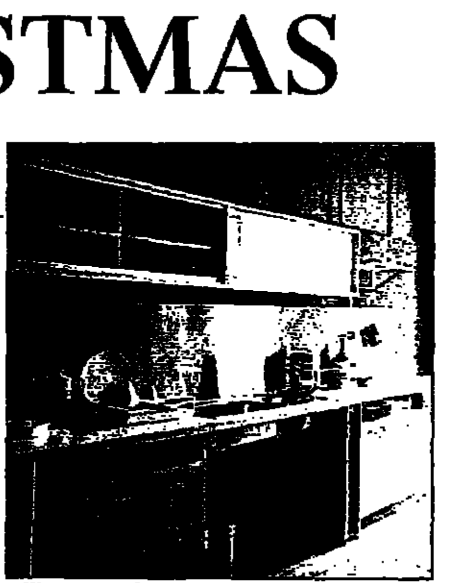
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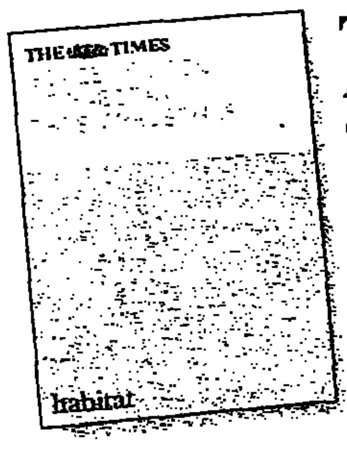

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CHANGING TIMES

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هكذا من الأصل

Fair game for fortune hunters

Hazel Spink assesses the risk of collective investment schemes

The "greed is good" philosophy espoused in the film *Wall Street*, where making money took precedence over everything else, has largely gone out of fashion in the caring Nineties.

Besides, most people are naturally conservative and this is reflected in their attitude towards money. So the majority of people who come into an inheritance or accumulate a large lump sum will want to play safe rather than go for broke.

However, a handful of people will adhere to the old adage that you have to speculate to accumulate. Such investors will want to adopt a high-risk strategy in the hope that this will maximise the returns from their investment. A much more likely scenario, however, is that more cautious investors with a reasonably large sum of money to invest will decide to take a punt with a small percentage of it.

As a rule of thumb collective investment schemes, such as unit trusts or investment trusts, are less risky than investing directly in the underlying assets. The financial adviser Roddy Kohn, managing director of Kohn Cougar, rates investments on a risk scale of one to ten and he considers direct equities to be off the scale. "You only have to look at the performance of some well-known blue chip shares to see how risky this strategy can be. Some shares have more ups and downs than a proficient yo-yo operator."

For example, shares in HSBC Holdings, one of the largest banking groups in the world, rose to £23.69 earlier this year before falling to a low of £12.16. Shares are now back up to £15.30 but clearly investors who bought at the peak are now facing substantial losses. However, if you choose the right company you can make significant gains.

Unquoted and smaller companies are even more risky, but if you choose the right company you can make a killing. Stephen Lansdown, chairman of Hargreaves Lansdown, said: "Penny shares, which have a share price of less than 10p, can do very well but you are counting on one company to come up trumps. Investors must also remember that these markets are often fairly illiquid — it is easy to get into them but getting out is a different matter."

Having said this, some collective investment schemes — in particular those investing in specialist areas or single countries — can be fairly risky.

Ian Millward, investment marketing manager at Chase de Vere, said: "If you choose a fund that is spread across both continents and 15 to 20 markets, then obviously the risk is less. If you choose a single country fund, you could see some fantastic returns if that country does well, but performance could be abysmal." Other potentially risky areas include Europe, North America and smaller companies.

TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

Gordon Gecko showed the ugly side of 1980s society with his "greed is good" philosophy in *Wall Street*

Derivatives, such as futures, options and warrants, can offer the prospect of spectacular growth, but they are also highly risky. In a sense, you are gambling on stock market movements.

Put simply, futures are the obligation to buy or sell shares or an index at a certain price and at a certain date. Investors are obliged to buy or sell at the chosen time and price even if the market has moved against them.

With options, investors pay a small deposit, known as a premium, which gives them the right to buy or sell at a certain price on a certain date, but they can decide not to exercise their option if the market has moved against them. In this case, they simply lose their deposit. Warrants are effectively long-dated options.

Govett Geared UK Index unit trust is a high-risk, high-return unit trust. "The fund uses futures on the FTSE 100 index to achieve twice the exposure to the index. This can mean twice the upside or twice the downside," said Ian Morley, director of AIB Govett. "When markets are strong this fund will roar ahead, but if they are weak you could lose money."

However, put options are taken out so that in the event of substantial failure, investors would not lose all their money.

The fund has performed extremely well over both one and three years. For example, over the three years to October 31, 1997, the fund rose by 130.96 per cent, compared with a sector average for the equity income and growth sector of 57.57 per cent. "This shows the power of derivatives when used more speculatively," said Mr Morley. However, over one month to October 31, the fund fell 8.1 per cent compared with a sector average of just 5.8 per cent.

Mr Morley advises even aggressive investors, who are keen to tap into the growth potential offered by derivatives, to do so via a collective investment scheme. "Generally speaking, it is not advisable for private individuals to trade in futures, options or warrants themselves because these markets move very quickly and if you gear yourself up you could lose a lot of money if you get it wrong."

Some advisers are extremely sceptical about using derivatives. Mr Kohn said: "Derivatives are highly complex instruments and as soon as you get into this game, you are putting your trust in individuals whose first priority is making money for themselves."

Certain investment trusts also offer the prospect of high risk in return for potentially high returns. Tim Cockerill, investment director at Whitechurch Securities, said: "If you want to get seriously high-risk then you could go for the capital shares of a split capital investment trust."

Split capital investment trusts offer investors different classes of shares. The safest are zero dividend preference shares which offer investors a predetermined level of growth.

When the investment trust is wound up at the end of its life, the obligations to zero dividend preference shareholders are met first. Then there are income shares which, as their name suggests, offer a high level of income. The capital shares are, in a sense, last in the pecking order on wind-up but they are entitled to all the growth in the trust after the other classes of shareholder have been paid.

Clearly if the trust performs badly the capital shareholders suffer. But if it sparkles, they can do very well. "If the market rose by 10 per cent during the investment period, capital shareholders may well see a return of 30 or 40 per cent. If, on the other hand, it works in reverse they can get clobbered," said Mr Cockerill.

Most people fail to make sense of Serps

Helen Pridham attempts to clear confusion surrounding the least understood pension scheme

Launched by Baroness Castle of Blackburn in 1978, the state earnings related pensions scheme (Serps), the additional state scheme for employees without company schemes, has never been far from controversy.

Its eventual abolition may be planned by government ministers but until that time millions of people will still need to rely on the system to provide their pensions.

Many are having great difficulty in calculating what their benefits should be. As the payouts are, at best, modest, this causes great irritation. Various surveys have shown that Serps is the least understood of any type of pension scheme, public or private.

Until 1988 every employee had to contribute to the scheme unless he or she were members of a "contracted out" company pension scheme which provided replacement benefits.

After 1988 it became possible to opt out of Serps into a personal pension. However, for men aged over 50 and women over 45 at the time, opting out was not likely to be worthwhile.

Maurice Ducker, a Weekend Money reader from Colchester, Essex, was confident that he knew what his entitlement was. In view of his earnings, Mr Ducker had little doubt that he would receive the maximum benefit under the scheme when he retired last year.

He was therefore surprised to be informed last October by the Department of Social Security that his Serps entitlement was several pounds less than the maximum published benefit for 1996-97 of £101.44.

After querying the amount, he was told — after a delay of almost 12 months — that he had not made the maximum contributions required. Bearing in mind that he had always earned more than the required amount, this has left him feeling very dissatisfied.

Pensions Postbag replies: It was not easy to get to the bottom of Mr Ducker's case, and even then it was hard to believe the reason why he and others like him will not receive the maximum benefit. But first a word of explanation about how a Serps pension is calculated.

It is not based on an employee's total earnings. It is related only to those earnings which fall between the lower and upper earnings limits for national insurance contributions purposes. These limits are increased each year in line with inflation. The current lower earnings limit is £62 a week (£3,224 a year) and the upper limit is £465 a week (£24,180 a year).

Therefore an employee earning £200 a week this year, for example, would have his or her Serps pension based on £138. Meanwhile, an employee earning £465 or more a week would have his or her pension for the year based on £403, no matter how high the actual earnings were.

But the calculations get more complicated because the employee's earnings in the band for each successive year are revalued annually in line with the rise in national average earnings up to state pension age.

Each revalued year's earnings are then added together and the total is divided by a factor to calculate the average earnings on which the final pension is based. Under the original scheme, the pension was to be worth 25 per cent of a person's average earnings over their 20 best years.

However, radical revisions were made to Serps in 1988 by the Conservative Government. These cut back pension entitlement to 20 per cent of earnings averaged over an employee's entire working life. However, that change is being phased in and the 25 per cent rule still applies to employees reaching state retirement age up to April 1999.

Thereafter, the pension will be a reduced proportion of average earnings based on the actual number of years' contributions made between 1978 and a person's pension age until the new benefit system matures around 2030.

Given these complexities, it is clearly not that simple for laymen to calculate their own Serps entitlment, and the Department of Social Security offers a free pensions forecast service for anyone who wants to know how much additional pension they can expect.

All you need to do is ask your local DSS office for form BR19. However, Mr Ducker's case appeared to be straightforward. His earnings had always been above the upper earnings limit since 1978, so it seemed fairly obvious that he should qualify for the maximum pension.

The reason he does not is Kafkaesque. Although the Contributions Agency, an offshoot of the DSS, which keeps contribution records, cannot discuss individual cases, John Harthen, a spokesman, explained: "Only those employees who are paid four-weekly, which gives rise to the payment of extra national insurance contributions, will be eligible for the maximum published Serps benefit."

Mr Harthen acknowledged that most employees are paid at weekly or monthly intervals and are therefore not eligible. Mr Ducker had been paid monthly.

If an insurance company had come up with such an explanation, the chances are that the Government would be naming and shaming it. Perhaps it needs to put its own house in order.

6.69% (7.1%APR)

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APRs variable and typical and calculated on the assumption that the mortgage rate applicable during the fixed rate period (which will run from the date interest is first charged in respect of the mortgage) will apply for the full term of the loan. However, the rate is variable and, from 1.1.2003, the Woolwich's prevailing standard variable mortgage rate will, in fact, apply. These terms apply only where a written offer of advance was issued on or after 22.11.97 and the mortgage completed by 30.04.98. Typical example: based on an endowment mortgage interest rate of 6.69% and a purchase price of £70,000, a couple taking out a mortgage of £65,000 (from which a Higher Percentage Advance Fee of £1081.25 will be deducted) over 25 years (where the amount of the advance is 93% of the Woolwich's valuation of the property) would pay interest of £362.38 per month gross (300 payments). Accrued interest £181.19. Valuer's fee £165. Application fee £350. Homewise premium £370. Solicitor's mortgage charges £126. Deeds Administration Fee payable on redemption £65 and a single repayment of capital of £65,000. Total amount payable £174,971.19. 6.69% 7.1% APR. The example assumes the mortgage starts in the middle of the month, a minimum guaranteed death benefit of £65,000 and a term of 25 years for the endowment policy. A first charge over your property will be required as security. For loans other than repayment loans, a suitable endowment policy, PEP or pension plan will also be required. A suitable level term assurance policy will also be required for PEP or pension plan mortgages. Where the mortgage exceeds the Woolwich's normal maximum percentage advance of 75% additional security will be required for which a Higher Percentage Advance Fee will be payable. If the mortgage is either redeemed (in full or in part) or transferred to another scheme before 1.1.2004, a fee equivalent to 6 months' interest at the rate payable at the time of repayment will be charged. Remortgages available up to 90% loan to value. All mortgages are subject to status, valuation and a minimum age of 18. A written quotation is available on request from any branch or from Woolwich plc, Dept LS, Watling Street, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7RR. Woolwich plc represents only Woolwich Life and Woolwich Unit Trust Managers, which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life assurance, unit trust and pension business. Registered office: Watling Street, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7RR. Registered in England no. 3295699. Woolwich plc adheres to the principles of the Code of Mortgage Lending Practice. Copies of the code are available on request. 5FRM7

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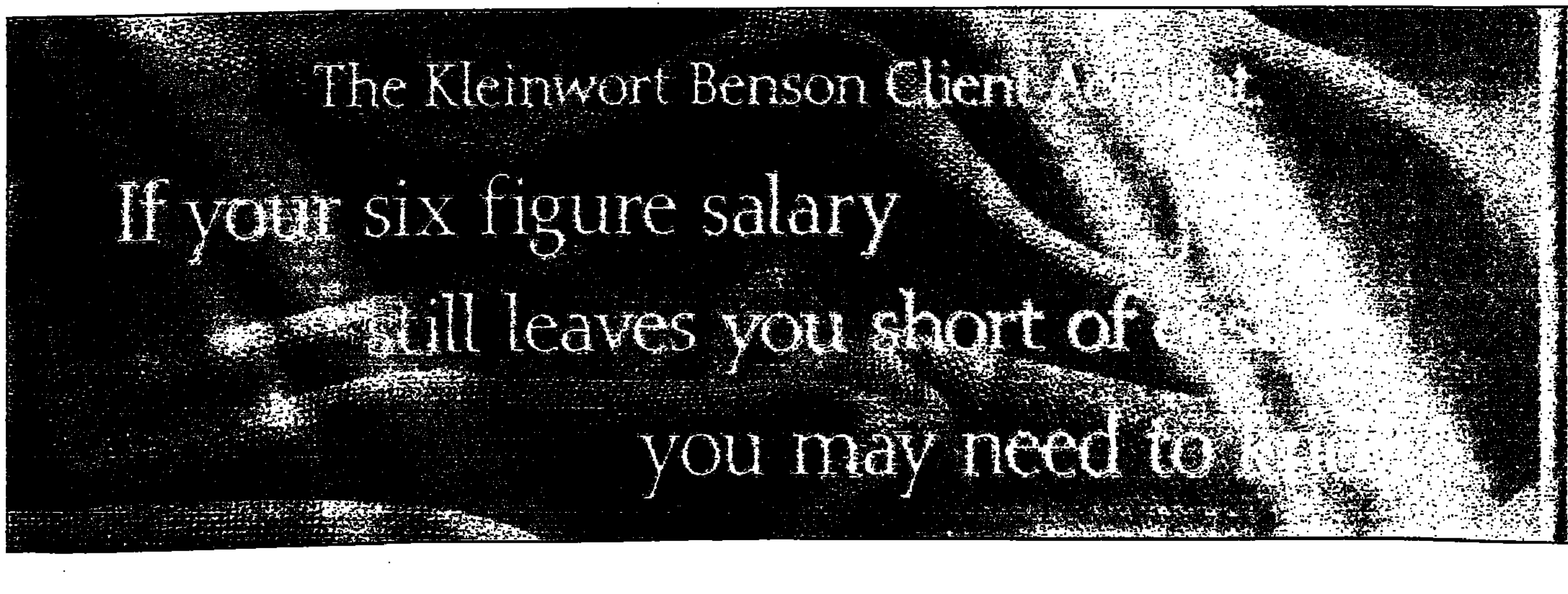
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M A N D T W E E D L E D E E

The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Tom Whitelaw, of Bearsden in Scotland

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Legal guidance for leaseholders

Leaseholders wanting to *buy their freeholds or* extend their leases need not be at the mercy of their landlords, according to a recent report. The comprehensive study by Chartered Surveyors Leasehold Enfranchisement Ltd details how leaseholders can benefit from a 1993 Act.

It outlines how the Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act was used to settle 166 claims taken to Leasehold Valuation Tribunals (LVT). *The Cost of Buying Your Freehold or Extending Your Lease* reveals *that LVT valuations tend to be* much closer to leaseholders' valuations and much lower than those of landlords.

As LVT decisions are "benchmarks" for future claims, these findings suggest *that disputes* between leaseholders and landlords over the price for freeholds, lease extensions or landlords' fees will certainly increase.

The 61-page report is available at £25, including postage *and packing*, from Leasehold Enfranchisement Ltd at 33 St George's Drive, Pimlico, London, SW1V 4DG. Telephone: 0171 821 8820. Extracts can be viewed on the Internet at www.leasehold.co.uk.

■ Help is at hand for dis*gruntled bank customers. The* Banking Ombudsman Scheme exists to resolve individual complaints about banking and now offers several guides outlining the complaints procedure.

For a general guide, *When and how we can help* summarises the circumstances in which the Ombudsman is of *assistance*.

Two other leaflets, *Complaining to the bank* and *Complaining to us*, which also contains a complaint form, give more detailed information. Copies can be ob*tained by calling the Office of* the Banking Ombudsman on 0171 404 9944.

■ If you ever questioned the impartiality of your independent financial adviser, then *Fees v Commissions* will help you to make up your mind.

The booklet weighs up the relative merits of paying a fee to an independent financial adviser rather than suffering the effects of commissions.

It is available free to *Times* readers from Chartwell Investment Management on 01225 446556 or 01803 290909.

SUSAN EMMETT AND JACQUI SPRAY

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Irish Permanent 0800 973321	ExtraPost Inst	Postal	£1	6.75	Mly
C&G(from 1.12.97)0800 742437	Inst Transfer	InstantB	£1,000	7.25	Yly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	Direct Access	Postal	£2,500	7.15	Yly
Alliance & Leic BS 0845 6088860	First Cls Inst	Postal	£10,000	7.50	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Northern Rock 0800 202121	Select 90	90 day p	£10,000	7.90	Yly
Investec Bank (UK) 0171-203 1650	Base Plus	1yr bond	£2,001	8.00	OM
Bristol & West 0800 202121	Postal 30	30 day p	£10,000	7.80	Yly
Bristol & West 0800 202121	Fix for Six	6 month	£ 5,000	7.75F	OM

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp *01438 744505*	*Premier+Feeder*	*5 year*	£3,000	7.85	Yly
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650		5 year	£9,000	7.85	Yly
Mansfield BS 01246 202055		5 year	£500	7.75	Yly
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836		5 year	£2,000	7.65	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	Nil
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.64%NC	7.90%N	Nil
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829100	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.00%	£12

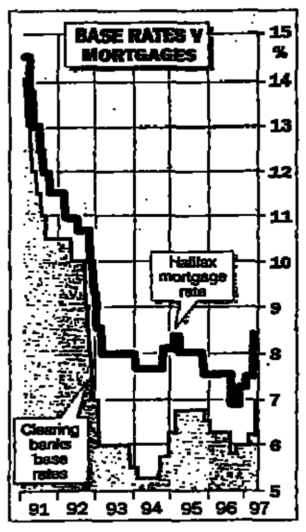
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

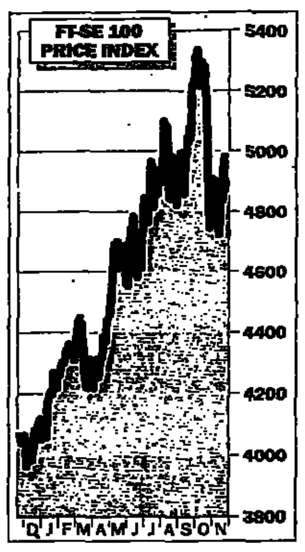
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs *with insurance*	*no insurance*
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	12.8%A	£183.75	£166.38
Capital One Direct 0800 216252	12.9%	£189.48	£166.54
Alliance & Leic Grp 0990 626262	13.30%	£187.73	£167.56

NB. A = Minimum age 22 years, B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System, C = no interest free period, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), N = Introductory rate for a limited period OM = Interest paid on maturity, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investmnt £	Notice	Contact
*Ordinary A/c*¹	*1.50*	*1.20*	*0.90*	*10-10,000***		0645 645000
Investment A/c*₆	4.75	3.80	2.85	1-499**⁷	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond* ₆	6.50	5.20	3.90	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond₄	6.75	5.40	4.05	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
44th Issue Cert†₂ ₃	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bond₅ ₆	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
11th Ind Linked†₃	2.75			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3 ₆	*7.00*	*5.60*	*4.20*	*500-50,000*₅	*60day*	*0645 645000*

*¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 ² Unlimited additional hldgs for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ₃Guaranteed when held for 5 years ₄0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ ⁵£100,000 jt in addition to S1 and S2 holdings ⁶Taxable but cred in full ⁷£500-100,000 earn higher rates. **Tiered rates apply.*

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life ....Level	£ 9,034	£10,130	£11,620
Sun Lf of Can ....Level	£ 9,062	£10,122	£11,564
Standard Lf ....Level	*£ 9,044*	*£10,136*	*£11,564*
Scot Widows ....Level	£ 9,100	£10,120	£11,500
Sun Life ....Level	£ 8,922	£10,049	£11,569

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£8,386	£ 9,205	£10,649
Generali ....Level	£8,227	£ 9,159	£10,437
Scot Widows ....Level	£8,290	£ 8,960	£ 9,950
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	*£8,306*	*£ 9,067*	*£10,176*
Canada Life ....Level	£8,325	£ 9,151	£10,353

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS *(level annuity)*	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Scot Widows ....Level	£7,927	£8,424	£ 9,091
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£7,915	£8,511	£ 9,350
Generali ....Level	£7,855	£8,512	£ 9,412
Equit Life..............Level	£7,807	£8,384	£ 9,197
Prudential ....Level	£7,901	£8,445	£ 9,178

***Source:** Annuity Direct (0171 684 5000)*

Statistics compiled by Jacqui Spray

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at June 19, 1997

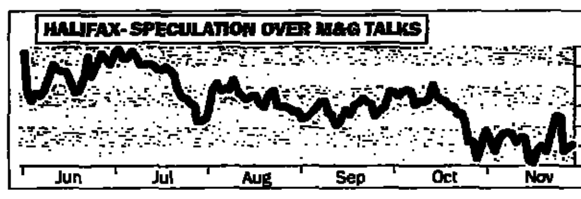
	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	AIG Life 6.38	
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.75
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.00
	10,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.90
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.30
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.75
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
4 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.10
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.15
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.05
	10,000	Hambro Assured	6.60

Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Mid	*9.38%*	*120.50*	*7.780*	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.580%	149.75	7.760	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	167.50	7.760	100.20	10,000
Britannia	13.000%	167.75	7.750	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.180%	156.75	7.740	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	151.25	7.770	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.380%	172.50	7.750	100.28	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	141.50	7.600	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.580%	165.50	7.630	100.45	1,000
Skipton	12.780%	168.00	7.660	100.48	1,000
Northern Rock	12.630%	162.50	7.770	100.14	1,000
PERPETUAL SUBORDINATED BONDS					
Chelt & Gloucester	11.750%	155.25	7.570	100.96	50,000
Halifax	*8.750%*	*113.50*	*7.710*	*100.62*	*50,000*
Halifax	12.000%	149.25	8.040	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.630%	180.00	7.570	100.00	50,000
Bristol & West	13.380%	171.50	7.800	100.34	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares. *Source* NatWest Markets



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Chelsea 0800 291291	*5.39*	*£20-150k*	*80*	*Fixed to 1.2.00*
Nationwide 0800 302010	5.75	to £300k	90	2.35% discount for 2 years
Britannia 0800 526350	5.74	*no max*	*80*	2-year fix
Banks				
Bank of Ireland *01189 510100*	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed for 6 mth, *3% disc-6 mths*
Bristol & West 0117 979 2222	2.90	£15-No Max	90	Fixed to 1.11.98

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0990 133149	*0.99*	*£15-100k*	*95*	*7.24% dsc-6 mth* 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y
Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220	0.75	£25-150k	75	Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98
Leeds & Holbeck 0113 225 7777	1.20	to £180k	95	7% dsc-6 mth 1% disc-1 year
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed for 6 *mth* 3% dsc-6 mth
Bristol & West 0117 979 2222	2.90	£15-no max	90	Fixed at 2.90% to 1.11.98

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Newbury 01635 43676	4.85	£30-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Mansfield 01246 202055	2.20	£25-250k	90	6% dsc-6m 1.49% 6 mth, 0.99% 1 yr
Clay Cross 01246 862120	5.25	£15-100k	95	3.0% discount for 1 year
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.77% disc 6 *mths* 3% disc 6 mths
Midland Bank 0800 494999	5.99	to £150k	95	Fixed to 31.1.00

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Blay's Guides Ltd. (01753 880482)

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Not with it at the Woolwich

From Mrs J. Wise
Sir, Last *month I responded* to a full-page Woolwich advertisement offering "14 per cent growth tax-free".

There was a "Call us free" telephone number to obtain an information pack. This I did, trying several times. Each time, it was ring, click, silence. The 100 *operator said that* there was a fault on the line.

On Monday I tried again. This time I spoke to a girl with a totally "drop dead" air. I explained the foregoing — she "knew nothing about it" but *said* she'd send me the information pack. Guess what — it never came.

On October 17 I wrote to the Woolwich HQ at the address at the foot of the advertisement and asked for their comments. Guess what, again — no response at all.

Is this, I ask, a good way to foster an image? Personally I am not "with the Woolwich" but my hard-pressed teacher daughter has most of her savings with them.

Finally, I managed to get into my local Woolwich branch. I told this tale to a young couple who agreed it was rather awful, but of *course not a local affair. He* got the "offer" information together and gave me two first class stamps!

I feel you ought to know the result of a (no doubt costly) advert in your paper.

Yours faithfully,
J. WISE,
38 Linkswood,
Eastbourne.

Taxman spares nothing for 49p

From Sir Sydney Giffard
Sir, Returning from three weeks abroad, in early August, I found a demand from the Inland Revenue, *due for payment* on July 31, but which had not reached me before my departure in the middle of that month. I sent my cheque at once, with explanation of the delay.

This morning I received a bill for 49p, being the interest calculated to be due as the result of one week's delay in my response to the earlier demand. When I took my payment to the Post Office, they told me that, in addition to the costs already incurred *for printing, postage* and official time, the Giro Bank would levy a small charge against the IR for this transaction.

It seems a pity that correct handling of what hardly amounts even to a trifle should be so expensive. But since the IR now debit me in advance for the *excess which they believe I am* likely to owe them at the end of the coming tax year, I find myself wondering what happens to rather larger amounts of interest putatively calculable to be due in the other direction.

Yours faithfully,
SIR SYDNEY GIFFARD,
Winkelbury House,
Berwick St John,
Shaftesbury, Wiltshire.

Duchy dues

From Mrs Jennifer Miller
Sir, Regarding the article by Susan Emmett (How the Duchy took over the Widow's mite, November 8) which evidently went into the Duchy of Cornwall Benevolent Fund, *the same situation obtains in* the Duchy of Lancaster.

Here money from intestate estates is paid into a Benevolent Fund which makes donations to a wide variety of charitable causes, primarily within the County Palatine. However, gifts may be made, on the Chancellor's authority, to those who might reasonably have expected to benefit from a person's death.

There is an official booklet, called *Duchy of Lancaster* which is issued by the Duchy Office to explain the situation.

Yours faithfully,
JENNIFER MILLER,
2 Heathview Gardens, SW15.

Banks miss the point over single currency

Is it a bird?
... Is it a plane?
Search me... but it's heading this way!
GED

From Mr William Sholto
Sir, The single European currency remains the major issue dividing political parties. My recent experience suggests our banks are every bit as remote from other nations as they were 52 years *ago. I have no axe to grind*, but if we were moving towards a unified currency, surely banks would be making a start with easier facilities for changing currencies?

Last week I wanted only to transfer a relatively small sum to someone living abroad. I inquired at the local branches of Barclays, NatWest, Midland and Lloyds. None seemed keen *on the idea, although two of* them were serious enough to phone their foreign exchange bureaux in the City.

Exchange rates varied, as did the charges made for currency conversions. Two of them told me that foreign currency dealing had been suspended that day (November 18) despite the lack of any official confirmation. Two suggested I open an account *with them before* embarking on any currency transfer, but when I agreed they demanded documents and *proof of identity. In anticipa*tion I had taken my UK passport with me, but for NatWest that was insufficient identification. They wanted my driving licence and water bill as well — odd for a depositor. Midland said they would take my money, but could give no indication how much the sum would amount to when finally converted to foreign currency. *Lloyds simply re*fused to touch any conversion to foreign currency.

I always thought the func*tion of banks was to* deal *in* money, including the various overseas currencies. How prepared are we to enter a currency union with Europe if simple exchange deals are too difficult for our banks? Judging by my experience, I would guess that the euro must still be a century away. If, however, we do wish to open a new chapter and join, we will have to catch up very rapidly.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM SHOLTO,
'Laurandria',
Tudor Road,
Barnet, Hertfordshire.

Letters or information for Weekend Money may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5082. Letters should include a daytime telephone number. *The Times* regrets it cannot always give individual replies or advice.

THE WEEK IN MONEY

The collapse of Yamaichi, the fourth-biggest securities house in Japan, sent chills through the world's finan*cial markets and already*-frail Asian economies at the start of the week. Share prices fell in London and the European markets.

☐ Private investors lost £1 billion in Peps in the last stock market crash, according to figures released this week. The Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds said the value of investments *held* within Peps fell from £35.86 billion in September to £34.86 billion in October. Nearly £140 for each of the 7.15 million Pep accounts currently open has been lost.

☐ Prince William and Prince Harry will lose about £7 million of their mother's estate to the taxman because the Royal *Family and Earl Spencer* ruled out using a legal scheme which could have plunged them into controversy. Much of the money could have been kept if the royals had been prepared to use the *Barder* application, *which would reverse the* Princess's £17 million divorce settlement and returned it to Prince Charles.

☐ The "green" Budget on Tuesday tempered an austere message on pay and spending with the promise of £400 million to help pensioners with winter fuel bills and £300 million for funding after-school clubs *for children. Gordon Brown*, the Chancellor, also announced VAT on home insulation grants is being cut from 17.5 per cent to 5 per cent. But he delivered a strong message on wage increases, saying that "today's pay rise threatens to become tomorrow's mortgage rise". He again committed himself to a tax starting rate of 10p in pound *but did not give a timescale*. Details on the new individual savings account will be unveiled on Tuesday.

Will the *Sunday Too Far Away* boys leave the shearing shed to top up their Colonial holdings with extra shares?

Is Colonial a snip?

Colonial, the Australian *life insurer that* **demutualised last year, has announced details of its share option scheme, which will allow some members to buy extra shares at a discount. Here** ***Weekend Money*** **looks at the scheme and whether it is worth buying extra stock.**

Q I have a policy with Colonial. Do I qualify ***for the discount shares?***

A Not unless you received free shares at the time of demutualisation. About 260,000 people in the UK qualified for the windfall but nearly 40 per cent of them sold out before flotation. More people have sold their shares this year and there are currently 160,000 UK shareholders. This latter group will qualify *for the share option scheme.*

Q What was the average allocation of shares and what are they worth now?

A Typically, a UK shareholder would have received a minimum of 225 shares and an average 630 shares. The ordinary shares are now worth about AS$3.80 (£1.55) after peaking at $4 earlier this year. 'At an exchange rate of A$2.45 to the *pound, this would mean the* minimum holding is currently worth £349 and the average is worth almost £1,000.

Q How does the option scheme work and is there a time limit on the options?

A Each Colonial ordinary share issued at the time of flotation has an option *attached. These options act in* a similar way to warrants in the UK, except that warrants can be traded separately at any time, while the Colonial options will only start trading separately from December 4. The option gives the holder the opportunity to buy another Colonial share at a discount of 15 per cent to the average share price between December 30 and January 20 next *year. The options can only be* exercised between December 4 and February 2, 1998. After that time they lapse and become worthless.

Q Is there an alternative to buying the extra shares, and how much will it all cost?

A If you do nothing, the options lapse. If you decide to sell the options, Colonial says you will receive around 4 cents per option, which means that when you take out the cost of selling you will make very little profit. The alternative is to exercise the option. You are entitled to pay AS$0.40 (or 17p at current exchange rates) towards buying further shares in Colonial at a 15 per cent discount to the average share price. In sterling terms, this means that if you have 500 shares, you will have £85 worth of spending power, which at an average share price during the offer period of $3.40 would give you around 60 new shares.

Q Why were the options issued and is it a good idea to buy extra shares?

A The options were issued by Colonial at the time of flotation to enable Colonial to raise extra money after *demutualisation. The options* are underwritten by the Australian office of the investment bank SBC Warburg Dillon Read. Analysts regard the shares as a good buy. This is because a fellow mutual insurer, Australia Mutual Provident (AMP), is in the process of demutualising and will be listed on the Australian and New Zealand stock markets next year. AMP will be one of the ten biggest companies on the Australian stock exchange and as a result pension funds and other institutional shareholders will want to buy the stock. Those funds that track stock market indices will also want to increase their weightings but may not be able to get hold of as many AMP shares as they want and so will buy Colonial shares as a proxy. This happened in the UK during the summer of building society flotations, when the *banking sector* received a huge boost as fund managers bought banking shares because they could not get their hands on newly converted building society stock.

Q What will it cost me to buy and sell shares?

A It costs nothing to buy extra shares through the option scheme. If you want to *sell shares, the Share Centre* in the UK is offering a service with a minimum charge of £27.50 plus Australian stamp duty and 0.15 per cent of the sale proceeds. If you want to sell options, the minimum cost is £6.75 for any amount plus stamp duty. From Monday, more information can be obtained from Colonial's helpline (0845-603 9078).

MARIANNE CURPHEY

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The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Tom Whitelaw, of Bearsden in Scotland

هكذا من الاهمال

Marianne Curphey explains how the current stock market crisis in Japan has arisen

Shadows in the land of rising sums

Turmoil in the Asian markets, sharp falls in the Nikkei 225 index and, this week, the collapse of one of Japan's biggest brokerage houses — is there more *bad news to come from the Far East?* Those investors who were seduced by predictions three years ago that Japan's recovery was just around the corner and by forecasts that the economic upturn was overdue will now be sitting on large losses. *Weekend Money* asks whether there *is more pain to come, and how Japan* will sort out its troubles this time.

Q What has caused the turmoil in the Japanese markets?

A The Japanese stock market escaped the 1987 crash suffered by both the UK and US and soared ahead in 1988 and 1989. In 1990 the yen rose strongly against the dollar, making Japanese exports more expensive and reducing profits for manufacturing companies. At the same time, interest rates rose and the value of equities began to fall, and the Nikkei 225 stock market average lost almost half its value in a year.

A further fall in equities came in 1991 when the Gulf War denied Japanese companies the oil imports on which they depended heavily. Then in 1995 the country began to *emerge from recession and pundits* were selling hard the story of a Japanese recovery.

Unfortunately for those investors who bought in at that time, *the* Japanese Government decided that the economy was doing so well that ministers raised taxes. This had the effect of taking 2 per cent out of the economy.

Futher pressures in the form of a property boom and collapse, and international speculators moving in to bet on the value of the yen and other Far Eastern currencies, have *taken their toll on the Nikkei, which* from a high of almost 40,000 in 1990 has now fallen to close at 16,636 this week. Over the past month alone, the Nikkei has dropped 5 per cent.

ITSUO INOUYE

Sea of red: shell-shocked Tokyo shareholders look on in dismay as screens reveal falling share prices

Q What effect has the collapse of Yamaichi, Japan's fourth largest brokerage house, had on the markets?

A Yamaichi collapsed on Monday under a Y3.2 trillion (£15 billion) mountain of debt, triggering falls in the FTSE 100 index in the UK and the Dow Jones on Wall Street.

Although there have been concerns for several years about serious problems in the banking sector, Yamaichi's closure came after revelations of the brokers' huge hidden debts, known as *tobashi*. Rumours about these practices have been rife for several years. The practice is designed to conceal losses from regulators and companies' favoured clients.

It involves shuffling around losses on a favoured clients' account to another account, by manipulating the records or setting up dummy *companies to "buy" the loss.*

Once the news of the debts became public, foreign credit agencies began downgrading Yamaichi, banks recalled their loans and frightened investors started to withdraw their money.

Q Has the Japanese Government taken any action?

A On Wednesday Japanese ministers took the rare step of appealing for calm, amid concern that investors were losing confidence *in the country's financial institutions.* Although the country's finance minister and the Governor of the Bank of Japan asked people to "act sensibly", history has shown that panic can easily grip stock markets. The problem, according to Iain Allan, director of strategy at the Royal Bank of Scotland, is that the Japanese government system is a collective one, with no individual willing to take a lone gamble on sorting out the mess the economy is in. He believes the burden will fall on the United States Government, which will eventually force the Japanese to push through reforms.

Q What sort of action will the Japanese have to take?

A Japanese ministers have pledged not to allow financial meltdown to take place and there is widespread belief that public money will have to be used in some form to resolve *the banking system's bad* loan problems. Politicians have until now been reluctant to use public money for the banking system because a huge outcry greeted a decision by the Government last year to use tax money to help to wind up failed mortgage firms. There will be more support if the money is used to protect depositors rather than to rescue firms from mismanagement.

The options available include Bank of Japan loans, tax revenues, and money from the Government's postal savings-funded Fiscal Investment and Loan Programme.

Q How have the Nikkei 225 and the FTSE 100 indices performed in this turbulence?

A At the beginning of October the Nikkei 225 index stood at 17,842.16. It hit a low point in November of 15,082.52 and now stands at 16,636. This compares with a high seven years ago of 38,915.87. The FTSE 100 index, meanwhile, reached a high of 5,330.8 in October this year but dropped as low as 4,711 a *fortnight* ago as a currency crisis which started in the Far Eastern markets and was driven by speculators spread to both the United Kingdom and the United States.

It's only for the brave with a long-term view

Fund managers and investment advisers admit to feeling "battered and bruised" by the revelations of corruption and debt at the very heart of Japan's economy. Many had been taking a very positive view of Japan at the beginning of the summer, since the UK and US stock markets had reached record highs and Japan was still looking cheap.

They are now ruing the advice they gave to clients to test the water by putting a proportion of their portfolio into what appeared to be an undervalued market.

Others see the Nikkei's tumble and the drop in the value of Japanese stocks as a buying opportunity. However, investing in Japan now is only for the brave and those who can afford a long-term view.

Most analysts agree that there will be further failures of banks or stockbroking firms and more turmoil before the economy and the fortunes of the stock market start to improve.

Those who are bullish about the market urge investors to pick unit or investment trusts which concentrate on the "blue chips" — good quality companies like Sony — which will receive international support.

Jason Hollands, a director of BESt Investment, says those people who have already bought into Japan should sit tight. "There really is no alternative," he said. "Now that the banking sector's problems have been brought out into the open there is hope that they will be sorted out. At last, slowly, Japan will be brought into the real world. In the past, companies with financial problems have closed overseas branches *rather than sack workers in* Japan. Now Japan is coming to terms with the fact that unemployment is part of a modern economy. Japan may be about to discover Thatcherism."

Iain Allan, the Royal Bank of Scotland's director of strategy adds that although manufacturing companies have learnt to be lean and mean, banks are still full of people with no *real jobs who are kept on* because it would be a great embarrassment to fire them.

Mr Hollands forecasts that the coming months will see fund managers buying up quality companies and recommends the Newton Japan unit trust, which invests in only 40 companies. "This is a market for good stockpickers," he said.

Over the past three years, Newton Japan's unit trust has lost 13 per cent of its value, compared with Schroder Tokyo, which has lost almost 20 per cent over the same period, and Fidelity Japan, at 24 per cent. Although these are hardly cheering figures, he believes Newton's narrow focus will protect it from exposure to some of the worst of Japan's economic problems. For the more wary investors, a policy of "wait and see" is the best option.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

All eyes on CGT future

Gavin Lumsden on hopes and fears over changes to capital taxation

Judging by their reaction to the "green" Budget on Tuesday, accountants felt at a loss to know what to say. Deprived of any stimulus in the Chancellor's speech, they have started conjuring the most frightening of familiar *spectres — it's Gordon* Brown, he's back and this time he wants another multibillion slug out of your pension fund.

The cause of the concern is capital gains tax (CGT), just one of many subjects upon which the Iron Chancellor had precious little to say. Having launched a review of CGT in his July Budget, Mr Brown stopped taking consultation on it last month. This week he announced that he would deliver a verdict in the proper Budget next spring.

Meanwhile investors and their financial advisers are on tenterhooks. All that is known about CGT reform so far is that it fits in the centre of the Government's drive to create a long-term investment culture in Britain.

At the moment CGT plays a relatively minor role on the fiscal stage, taxing people on investment gains over £6,500 a year at the individual's highest marginal rate for income tax. Last year it affected 100,000 people, who paid £1.2 billion into the government coffers.

However, *CGT is* complex and costly to administer and is widely expected to be replaced by a two-tier system that would penalise short-term investment gains while exempting profits made from assets held for more than ten years.

Elspeth May, tax partner in KPMG, believes that the rate of CGT should be cut by 4 per cent for every year an asset is held. This would prevent the tax distorting investment decisions, she says.

None of this is particularly controversial. What has got financial experts worried *is the* prospect of the tax being levied on pension funds, a move that would raise between £1 billion and £1.5 billion for the Inland Revenue each year. This would be on top of the £3.6 billion smash-and-grab raid that the Chancellor pulled off in July when he prevented pension funds from reclaiming the 20 per cent tax on dividends from shares.

Maurice Fitzpatrick, of Chantrey Vellacott, said: "For every £2 of UK equity held by individuals, £4 is held by pension funds. From an intellectual point of view, if the *Chancellor is serious* about erasing short-termism, he would have to include pension funds." Mr Fitzpatrick says that the Government has already shown itself to be disposed to imposing a disguised tax via pension funds and that it would find the money useful in achieving its aim of setting a 10p basic rate of tax.

John Whiting, of Price Waterhouse, agrees. He said: "CGT has traditionally always been a gap plugger in the Government's anti-tax avoidance strategy and not a revenue raiser. However, I feel the reform is processing *far more in the way of the* latter."

Ending the CGT exemption that occupational and personal pension funds currently enjoy would be a politically sensitive move for the Government, which is already committed to pensions reform as part of its plan to encourage people to save more for their retirement.

The National Association of Pension Funds, whose members manage the £300 billion of assets that would be affected, rightly claims that pension funds are already long-term investors. Stamp duty on purchases is sufficient discouragement from engaging in speculative trading. However, the association says that funds need maximum investment flexibility to provide income for pensioners.

In other areas, the Chancellor's lack of detail may be good news for investors. *Mr Brown did not,* as expected, abolish reinvestment relief, which allows people to escape CGT on investment gains by reinvesting their profits in unquoted companies. Investors and providers of enterprise investment schemes and venture capital trusts, which thrive on this relief, live to see another day, it seems.

If the Government does move to a two-tier system for CGT, it may herald the end of the *indexation* calculation, much to the relief of investors plagued by its complexity since its introduction in 1982. Indexation allows investors to use rises in the retail price index to reduce their taxable gains. For example, an investment bought in 1992 at £1,000 and sold today at £5,000 would produce a gain of £4,000. If inflation has been 20 per cent, investors can subtract 20 per cent of their original investment (£200) cutting *their taxable* gain to £3,800. Accountants say that this sum will be a nightmare for people completing self-assessment forms. Besides, they add, if the Government succeeds in keeping inflation low, it will become increasingly irrelevant.

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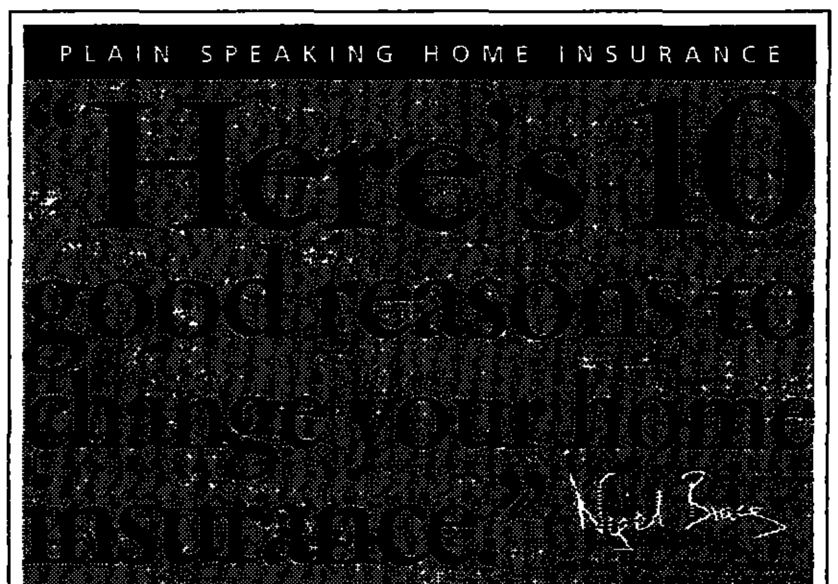

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Wake-up call to protect your heirs

Marianne Curphey says Brown may reform inheritance tax

If your will is out of date and you have yet to sort out what will happen to your financial affairs after your death, the "green" Budget last Tuesday should have been your wake-up call.

The Chancellor's decision not to change the inheritance tax rules in the Budget means that an overhaul is likely to be top of his list in April, and you have four months in which to make the most of the current generous allowances.

Gordon Brown is believed to regard the present system as unsatisfactory and unfair since it is, effectively, a voluntary tax paid only by those who have failed to plan properly and tends to hit the middle classes harder than the seriously rich. For example, a man living in the South of England with £100,000 of investments and a house worth £200,000 would be liable for tax at 40 per cent on £85,000, that is £34,000.

The Treasury loses millions of pounds of potential revenue from inheritance tax every year because skilled accountants can maximise the exemptions under the current system. Reforming inheritance tax would be a simple way for the Chancellor to raise more revenue without penalising the low paid.

At present, inheritance tax is charged at 40 per cent on all assets worth more than £215,000 in an estate. About 1.5 million people living in the UK will share inheritance windfalls of £26 billion this year, a similar sum to the recent windfalls from the Halifax, Norwich Union, Woolwich and Northern Rock flotations put together.

So with four months to go before any potential changes are made, what can those with estates and those who expect windfalls do to reduce their tax liability?

Maurice Fitzpatrick, a senior tax partner with Chantrey Vellacott, the accountant, says careful financial planning by the wealthy could reduce substantially, or even eliminate, inheritance tax liability by giving away assets during one's lifetime.

CURRENT RULES

■ *Making transfers from your estate:*
At present, if an individual's estate is worth £215,000 or less when he or she dies, there is no tax to pay. Similarly, gifts of £3,000 per donor a year are free of tax. Anything over that potentially becomes liable to tax. If you do not take advantage of this exemption each year, it is lost. However, if you make a gift of more than £3,000 it will not attract tax as long as the donor lives for more than seven years after so doing.

This is known as the potentially exempt transfer (Pet). The growth in the value of the Pet is excluded from any assessment of the value of the estate from the first day of the transfer.

When inheritance tax is being assessed, any amount over £215,000 is taxed at 40 per cent. On an estate of £300,000 there would be £34,000 tax to pay, while on an estate of £2 million, more than £700,000 would be due.

If you leave money to charity, the donation is exempt from inheritance tax.

■ *Capital gains tax liability:*
Even though making a transfer is usually a wise move, it may cost money in the form of capital gains tax, says David Aaron, who runs a financial advisory service in Milton Keynes. When you make a gift the Inland Revenue regards it as a disposal for capital gains tax purposes. The CGT allowance for each individual this year is £6,500 and you will pay tax at your highest rate on the balance if your assets have appreciated by more than this figure since you began investing in them.

Mr Aaron says: "It is possible to get around CGT by using 'hold-over' relief via a discretionary trust." An accountant or tax adviser and some financial advisers can do this for you.

LIKELY CHANGES

■ *Abolishing the seven-year rule/abolishing Pets:*
The Government could abolish the seven-year rule in April's Budget and impose inheritance tax on any gift transferred during your lifetime. Some tax experts suggest that instead of getting rid of the seven-year rule he could extend the timescale so that any gifts given 20 years before your death would be exempt from inheritance tax. However, it would be very difficult for people to make the most of the latter option since it would be hard to estimate how much money they would need to keep to fund their own lifestyle over two decades.

Alternatively, the tax might be calculated on the cumulative total of lifetime gifts plus the value of the estate at the time of death.

Mr Fitzpatrick thinks that the Chancellor might impose a lower limit from the current 40 per cent on the first £100,000 over and above £215,000 nil band. Mr Brown could target the seriously wealthy by raising inheritance tax to 60 per cent of all estates worth more than £1 million.

John Battersby, personal financial services partner of KPMG, the accountants, believes abolishing lifetime gifts would cause an administrative burden. He said: "It does not seem realistic to expect taxpayers to keep records of all gifts throughout their lives as abolition of the rule could require."

■ *Abolition of business property relief and agricultural relief:*
It is currently possible to siphon off some assets that would normally be subject to inheritance tax by using schemes that trigger tax relief, Mr Aaron says.

These include excluded property trusts, where someone who is not domiciled in the UK can make investments offshore that will be exempt from inheritance tax for ever, even if you become a UK resident later.

Business and agricultural property relief were designed to prevent the break-up of bona fide family businesses, but the Government is concerned that these reliefs may be abused. Both reliefs are likely to be scrapped in any reform of inheritance tax.

■ *Changing a will after death:*
It is possible to avoid inheritance tax by changing a will after the person has died to make it more tax-efficient. Although this is used in cases where people had not updated a will for many years and family circumstances had changed, the Government believes some people are abusing the spirit of the law to avoid tax.

ACTION BY APRIL

1. Draw up a will.
2. Make an estimate of your wealth.
3. Use existing exemptions, including the nil rate band.
4. Make use of potentially exempt transfers (Pets).
5. Invest in nil or lower taxed assets, which include agricultural land, private trading companies and woodland.
6. Create a lifetime discretionary trust to ensure that when one half of a married couple dies, the inheritance passed to the survivor is not taxed when the survivor dies.
7. Leave Lloyd's assets to your children.

OTHER POINTS

Mr Aaron, and Mike Warburton, of Grant Thornton, both highlight the importance of incorporating death-in-service benefits from employers into your inheritance tax planning.

For example, suppose your spouse receives a large sum as part of the benefits from your occupational pension scheme when you die. When your spouse dies, they will then be caught for inheritance tax.

Mr Aaron makes the suggestion that people should ensure that death benefits are paid into a suitable trust that will enable them to bypass the estate of the surviving spouse, but without denying the spouse income or capital from the trust.

Inheritance problems: the late Princess, with Prince Harry and Prince William

Having a will of your own

The only way to ensure assets stay in the family is to keep your legal wishes up-to-date, says **Susan Emmett**

Lawyers still cannot understand why Diana, Princess of Wales did not update her will after her £17 million divorce settlement. Had she done so, she could have ensured that her heirs, the two Princes, would have avoided much of the hefty inheritance tax they now face.

There are several ways of avoiding inheritance tax, most of which involve giving away your assets during your life in order to reduce the value of your estate. But this is not always ideal, especially if you are still young.

Clive Scott-Hopkins, director at Towry Law Financial Services, said: "If you cannot 'beat' it through divestment, then 'meet' it instead through a trust life policy."

According to Mr Scott-Hopkins the Princess should have taken out a life policy in trust for William and Harry to fund her large potential IHT liability, which on £17 million is about £6.7 million. The trust, created by means of her updated will, would have cancelled out capital gains tax on her death also. A low-cost whole life policy costs around £6,000 per £1 million for a fit 36-year-old female, which would have translated into an annual premium of about £40,000 for the Princess.

As inheritance tax is payable up to seven years after such an arrangement, she could have taken out insurance policies to protect against tax liability had she died within that period.

Yet, according to Richard Bark-Jones, a partner at Morecroft Urquhart in Liverpool, it is fairly unusual for such a young person to consider these measures. "Normally an average 36-year-old would not be thinking of setting up these sorts of trusts," he said. "But then again an average 36-year-old does not have a £17 million divorce settlement."

However surprising it may seem that the Princess did not update her will and make suitable arrangements for reducing IHT liability, she is not alone. Only one in three people ever makes a will and many fail to review them after a life-changing event such as marriage or divorce. Marriage automatically invalidates a will made before the wedding.

Although the full details of the Princess's will have not been disclosed, it is known that she wished the majority of her estate to go to her two sons. It is unlikely that this would have changed in a new will but lawyers, such as Mr Scott-Hopkins, are keen to emphasise the importance of keeping your will up-to-date.

Although marriage invalidates a will, divorce does not but it negates any benefits to the former spouse. Therefore, it is important to rethink who your new beneficiaries will be and how to minimise liability.

If your estate is straightforward, organising your own will can be relatively easy. High street stationers do sell DIY packs. But solicitors advise care because a will needs to meet certain legal requirements for it to be valid. Unless it is witnessed by two people who are not beneficiaries, for instance, it is worthless.

If your estate is more complex and your assets worth more than £215,000, the threshold for inheritance tax, then a trip to the solicitors is certainly recommended as he or she can give you guidance on how to mitigate inheritance tax liability and help to set up trusts.

You do not need to be a Spencer to have an estate worth more than £215,000. By the time you count the house, the furniture you put in it and the car, the threshold will quickly disappear.

Inheritance tax may take a large chunk of your estate but dying intestate could mean your heirs get even less. If you do not make a will, the Government will do it for you. The law only recognises relatives with a direct blood link so your hard-earned wealth might end up in the taxman's pocket as there are strict rules dictating where your money goes if you die intestate.

An ordinary will costs around £50 and a couple making similar wills would be charged £75. Personal recommendation is the best way to choose a solicitor. If friends and colleagues cannot help, lists of solicitors can be found in bank libraries, Citizens Advice Bureaux and the solicitors' Family Law Association. Will-writing services, insurance companies, building societies and banks can also help with preparing wills.

After making an appointment, it helps to list all your assets. Include insurance policies and any property that you own, as well as valuable possessions. You will also have to list Premium Bonds, although they are not transferable.

Once your will is sorted out you will need to appoint an executor who will ensure your wishes are carried out after your death. Your bank or your solicitors will act as executors but as both will charge you for the privilege, it is best to appoint a close friend of the family, a relative or grown-up children. You can have more than one executor and they can be a beneficiary of your estate.

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The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Tom Whitelaw, of Bearsden in Scotland

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Graham Searjeant looks for light in the gloom

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The importance of keeping your will up to date

Caroline Merrell on the changes facing married couples and single parents

Working mum welcomes help

ALAN WELLER

Shirley Hutchinson, a 28-year-old single mother from North London, is one at whom the money for childcare is targeted. As a freelance record production assistant, Ms Hutchinson's hours are erratic, and she will often work beyond normal school hours.

Her son Sebastian will have to be looked after for a couple of hours after school and she said she welcomed any change that would make childcare simpler and cheaper.

She said: "The out-of-school club costs around £5 a session. Over a month the costs could be as high as £100, anything that makes this cheaper would be welcomed."

Brown turns attention to family matters

The family was very much the focus of the Chancellor's Budget statement this week. Gordon Brown proposed a radical overhaul of the family credit system that could bring to an end the independent taxation for husbands and wives introduced only six years ago. The move could mean a rebellion among the millions of dual-earnings middle class couples who voted Labour into power.

Mr Brown also unveiled a £300 million package for childcare, aimed at increasing the number of places in after-school clubs. The latter move was seen by some as a step towards granting tax relief on the costs of childcare.

The overhaul of the present system of family credit will mean that workers will receive the benefit in their pay packet in the form of reduced tax — it will be termed a working-family tax credit (WFTC).

Family credit is currently paid to families with income of less than £77 a week. The basic benefit is worth £47.65 per family. Benefits of between £12 a week and £34 a week are also paid out for each dependent child. Around £2 billion a year is spent on family credit and it is worth an average of £57 a week for each family that claims it.

In America, where there is no independent taxation, the WFTC is based on the joint income of husband and wife.

Reintegration of family income for tax purposes could mean that a couple with partners each earning £20,000 a year would become liable to higher-rate tax, adding £4,000 to their annual tax bill.

However, Mr Brown emphasised that no final decision had been made. "If you look at America, for example, their earned income tax credit is now available to 18 million people, whereas in Britain family credit is available to only 700,000 people. So we want to look at how we can help more low-paid workers to gain benefits from their work," he said.

The Institute of Fiscal Studies, the independent body, said that WFTC would be almost impossible to administer unless the entire family income was taken in to account. If it was not, it could lead to a situation where, for example, a low-paid secretary benefited from the tax credit despite the fact that her husband earned a substantial sum. The IFS also said the problems could arise as the tax credit would inevitably end up in the hands of the working partner — usually the male. It would not necessarily reach its target, the family.

The Government also gave an unexpected boost to the childcare lobby. Mr Brown unveiled plans to spend a total of £300 million over five years on delivering help to working parents. The money will be spent on setting up a total of 30,000 out-of-school clubs, which will provide one million new childcare places. The cash will also be used to train 50,000 unemployed people as child carers. The changes will be particularly helpful to single parents. Gingerbread, the charity that campaigns on behalf of single-parent families, said there are around 1.7 million single-parent families bringing up 2.9 children, representing nearly a quarter of all households with dependent children.

Many single parents are dependent on state benefits, many find it difficult to work because the costs of childcare make it economically unviable. At the moment, there are about 3,400 out-of-school clubs providing childcare for around 150,000 children.

A Gingerbread spokeswoman said the £300 million giveaway by the Chancellor was extremely welcome. She said it pointed to a Government that was more sympathetic to helping working parents. She said: "We would welcome an opportunity to consult on who the carers should be." She also pointed out that some of the £300 million should be used to make sure that the childcare places were available to the poorest people.

Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security, said: "It is an investment which could transform all parents' lives, particularly lone parents. Next year, the first year of the programme, we will make £40 million available."

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BUSINESS NEWS PAGES 27-31

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

Poor miss out on 10% tax rate

The Chancellor again reiterated the Government's commitment to a 10 per cent starting rate of tax in the green Budget (Caroline Merrell writes).

Gordon Brown said: "To maximise rewards from work, a 10p starting rate of tax and a reform of benefit tapers will be introduced when it is prudent to do so." In principle, accountants welcomed the pledge on the 10 per cent tax rate, but said the richest would benefit most from the low tax band.

The Government gave no indication about how it intends to fund a low starting rate of tax, or how it would interact with the current tax structure. At the moment, every individual can earn £4,045 before they pay any tax, the next £4,100 attracts 20 per cent tax, while the next £21,999 attracts 23 per cent tax.

Those who earn more than £30,145 have to pay tax at the highest rate of 40 per cent, on anything above that amount. John Whiting, tax partner at Price Waterhouse, said: "In principle it is a good idea. But it will not solve everything." He pointed out that the very low paid were not interested in tax rates. He claimed they were far more concerned about losing benefits when they started work.

Mr Whiting believes the Government could fund the tax cut by not allowing the two million or so 40 per cent tax payers to benefit from the lower rate of tax.

John Battersby, of KPMG, also welcomed the proposed changes, but said the pledge by the Government was of little use, as there was no detail to back it up.

According to figures from KPMG, if the 20 per cent tax band was simply exchanged for a 10 per cent tax band, using this year's figures, the most that could be saved would be £410. Anyone earning over £8,045 would benefit from this maximum saving. Anyone earning under this amount would save less. For example, someone earning £7,500 would only save £345.

Barclays claims 1m new account holders

SIMON WALKER

About one million disenchanted people have opened accounts at Barclays this year after their banks failed to give good service (Susan Emmett writes).

Disgruntled customers no longer put up with bad banking and are switching like never before. But some stay with the traditional. Barclays says it has had an "outstanding" year.

But increased competition on the high street from newcomers such as Virgin One, Virgin Direct's new account combining a flexible mortgage and current account, means account holders are spoilt for choice.

First Direct, Midland's telephone banking arm, welcomed 130,000 new account holders and some 150,000 joined the Halifax, the country's largest building society.

Jodi Cornofsky, 23, is one of the disaffected customers who left her old bank because it failed to offer the service she needed. Jodi joined First Direct for the convenience of telephone banking.

Gloves are off, page 54

Brown's day of reckoning for Isa

As the nation embarks on the Christmas spending spree, the Chancellor wants us to pause a while to think about saving. Next Tuesday sees the publication of a consultation document on the individual savings account (Isa), the replacement for the Pep and the Tessa.

Those who can think about thrift instead of turkeys may not be overwhelmed by Gordon Brown's generosity. There is speculation that the tax relief may be restricted to 10 per cent.

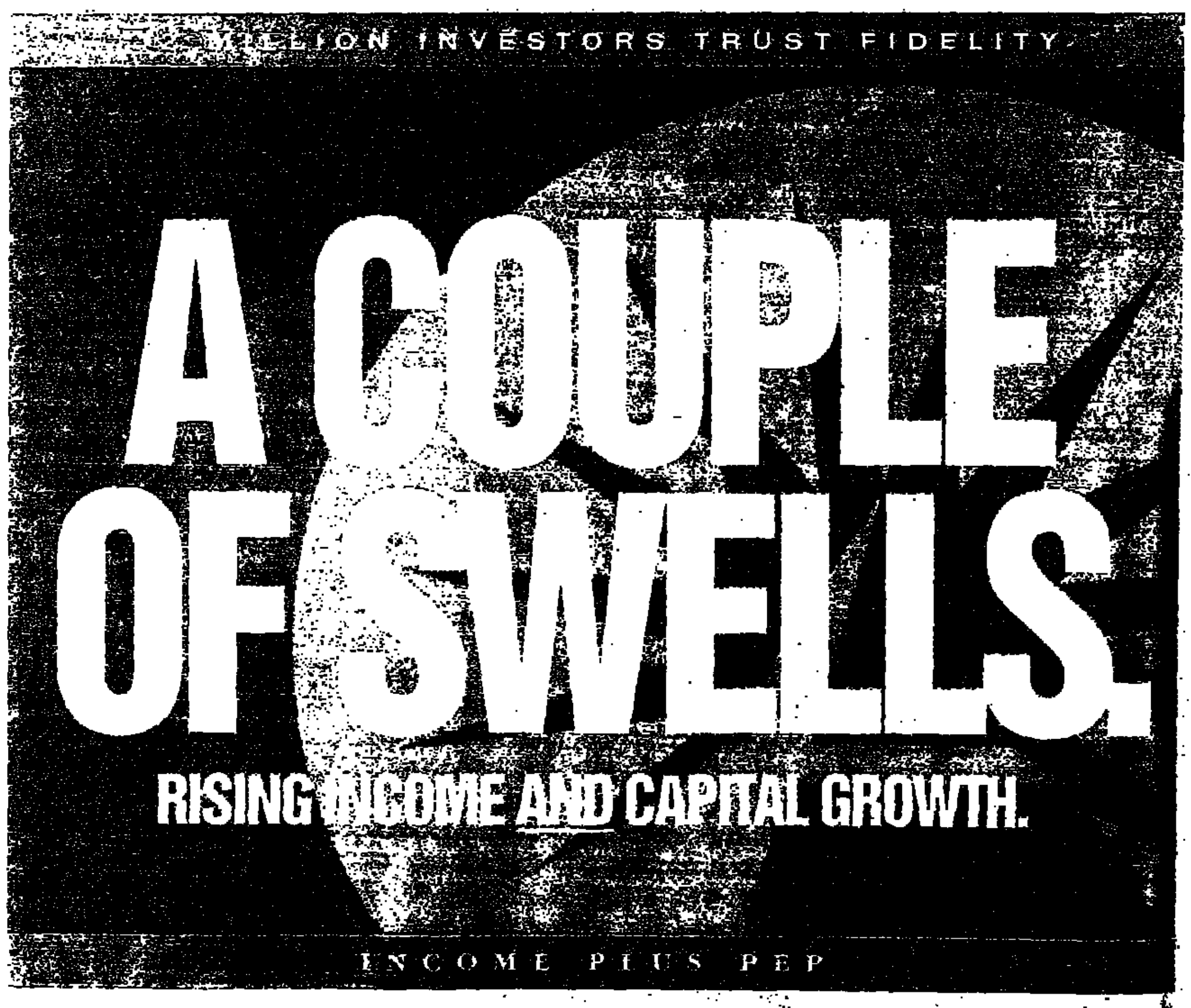
The Halifax, the largest provider of Tessas and of Pep mortgages, is questioning the timing of the Isa launch, scheduled for April 1999. The Halifax points out that many institutions will be preoccupied with the reorganisation of systems for the millennium.

The Isa proposals must reconcile a number of conflicting interests. The account will be primarily designed to appeal to those on low incomes but must not alienate better off investors who may also wish to take advantage of the new account.

John Whiting, tax partner at Price Waterhouse, the accountants, says: "The Chancellor must make sure that there is some tax incentive for the average investor; the type of person already saving in Peps.

"If the incentives are not sufficiently appealing, then those with money in Peps will not be interested in transferring into Isas. If they decide to cash in their Pep holdings, there could be serious consequences for the stock market. There would also be implications for the consumer spending figures if they decided to embark on a spending spree."

ANNE ASHWORTH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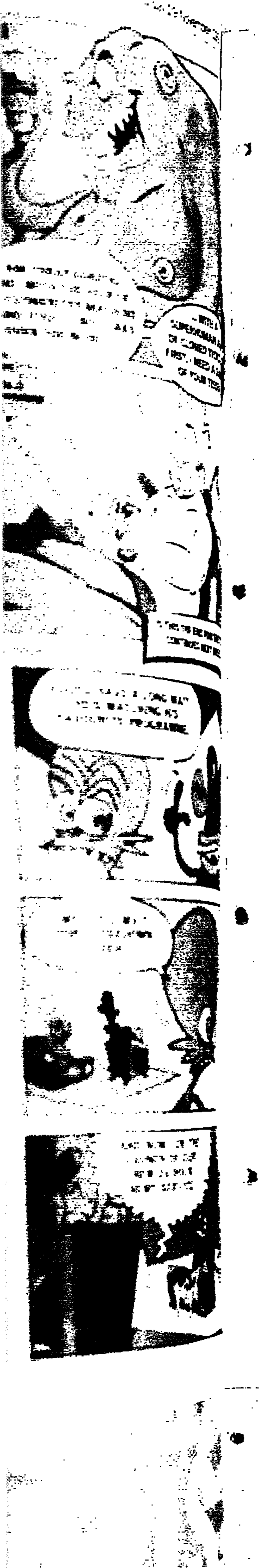

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THE TIMES
WEEKEND

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 29 1997

Can Ffion save the Tories?

Nicholas Wood and **Katherine Bergen**

look at the woman the Conservatives hope will inject glamour into their blighted party

In less than a month Ffion Jenkins, once nicknamed the "Princess of Wales" by jealous classmates at her Welsh comprehensive, will marry William Hague amid the gothic splendour of the House of Commons crypt.

Conservative spin-doctors, salivating at the prospect of a touch of glamour in their lacklustre team, are already suggesting that the political wedding of the decade will prove the platform for a Tory recovery.

Ffion, aged 29, is blonde, pretty, clever, discreet and fiercely ambitious. Known as "Jolly Jenkins" to her friends, she has a mega-watt smile and, according to her dress designer, the figure of Marilyn Monroe.

To Conservatives who have never quite got over the demise of their last high-octane blonde, this is an enticing prospect. Margaret Thatcher was once famously described by François Mitterrand as having the eyes of Caligula but the mouth of Miss Monroe. Battle-scarred Tories, still shellshocked by the scale of their election defeat, are hoping that Ffion will bring some of that long-lost star quality to their rather dreary little party.

> Ffion is still one of the leading lights in the so-called SWS society — Social, Welsh and Sexy

As *The Times* disclosed earlier this week, Mr Hague has yet to make much of an impression on the British public. Groups of voters interviewed in depth for the Tory high command have likened him to a dormouse or a Yorkshire terrier — a rather brutal way of saying that he has made little impact.

Mr Hague's image-makers hope that, with the help of Ffion, the wedding ceremony on December 19 in the crypt chapel, also known as St Mary's Undercroft, in the Palace of Westminster, will help to put their man on the political map.

As befits a former civil servant, Ffion is playing her cards close to her chest, so far giving no interviews about her fast-approaching big day. Wedding invitations have gone out to about 200 close friends and family, and the wedding breakfast — a loose term as the meal itself takes place after the 2pm ceremony — will also be staged inside the palace, at Speaker's House. The invitations stipulate morning dress but no confetti. They take the unusual appearance of a souvenir booklet tied by a cream bow with her parents Emyr and Myra Jenkins calling upon guests in English on the right of the centre pages and Welsh on the left.

The marriage ceremony of Ffion Jenkins to William Jefferson Hague will be bilingual. This is hardly surprising, for Ffion is best known as the woman who taught William the rudiments of the Welsh language. A leading light in the SWS society — Social, Welsh and Sexy — she was determined that he should not repeat the mistake of her former boss John Redwood, whose career nose-dived when, as Welsh Secretary, he was exposed as not knowing the words of the Welsh national anthem.

When William took over the top job in Cardiff, Ffion spent two hours singing to him until he was word perfect. We are expected to believe that this tryst — at the White Horse pub in Betws-y-Coed on a hot summer's day in 1995 — was purely professional.

Whether it was or not, William, in keeping with his stolid Yorkshire background, took a while to make up his mind. A year passed before he asked her out, but after that he showed a decisiveness one would expect in a possible future prime minister. Within four months, and three months before the election, he had proposed marriage. He is now taking lessons in Welsh from a professional tutor.

Ffion was a brunette at Ysgol Gyfun Glantaf, a Welsh-speaking high school in Llandaff, Cardiff. But although her hairstyle has moved with the times, and a dash of peroxide, she has stayed true to her roots in the upper echelons of the Crachach, a network of well-connected Welsh-speaking families who run the Principality's quangos and institutions. To those who regard them as "petty gentry, conceited upstarts and snobs", they are better known as the Taffia.

One friend describes her as "Welsh Nationalist with a small n", which might make for some excitable pillow talk about the merits of William's distaste for devolution. But the truth appears to be that Ffion's enthusiasm for things Welsh

Continued on page 3

RICHARD MAW

Ffion, aged 29, is blonde, pretty, clever, discreet and fiercely ambitious. Known as "Jolly Jenkins", she has the figure of Marilyn Monroe

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Dons who dice with Mr Chips

Cambridge can't resist Bill Gates, or his money, says **Philip Delves Broughton**

WORLD PICTURES

Bill Gates, the chairman of Microsoft and the world's richest businessman, visited Cambridge last month after donating £10 million for a new university computer laboratory

An unseasonably large crowd parked their bicycles in the frost outside Lady Mitchell Hall, one of Cambridge's largest lecture rooms, earlier this month. They had come to hear Professor Quentin Skinner, who was giving his first lecture as the university's Regius Professor of Modern History.

Skinner's lectures have always been crowd-pullers, from the moment he was elected into a college fellowship at 21, straight after graduation. This time, however, as he spoke about the 17th-century argument between Hobbes and Harrington on the subject of liberty, there was something different in the air. The packed hall and the style of Skinner's talk, delivered in measured sentences without a single visual aid, offered the most stylish possible rebuff to Cambridge science.

"It was extraordinary," says Professor Gillian Beer, president of Clare Hall and the chairman of this year's Booker Prize panel. "There were people hanging from the rafters. It was a classic, big-argument, arts and humanities lecture which showed that the scientists do not have the monopoly on good teaching."

Skinner's lecture offered a rare chance for those in the arts and humanities to regroup. As so often in Cambridge's 700-year history, in the past year, the arts have been feeling science's boot on their neck. This time the pressure is greater than ever. Cambridge is fast becoming the nursery for the global computer revolution, and both town and gown are struggling to cope.

Last month, Bill Gates, the chairman of Microsoft and the world's richest businessman, visited the university after donating £10 million for a new university computer laboratory and announcing the investment of £50 million over ten years in a research and development centre in Cambridge which would draw on university expertise.

It was like a papal blessing for those who, since the early Seventies, had turned Cambridge and its surrounding area into Silicon Fen, an East Anglian version of California's Silicon Valley, the birthplace of the modern computer industry. There are around 600 high-tech firms in and around the city, employing 19,000 people, many at the leading edge of biotechnology and computer science. Gates had picked them to join him in the van of what he calls the new industrial revolution.

Gates's visit, however, made many in the university uncomfortable. The meeting represented for some the capitulation of Cambridge science to commerce. And the boom in high-tech industries around Cambridge, which owes so much to the international prestige of the university, is threatening life in the city, which remains at heart a small, medieval East Anglian market town.

But traffic congestion, shortage of housing and lack of an infrastructure to cope with a rapidly increasing population is having a terrible effect on the city. Excessive tourism and lazy planning are turning Silicon Fen into an increasingly unhealthy and unattractive environment.

Peter Dawe, a local businessman who has launched the Cambridge is Full campaign, says: "Cambridge has grown incrementally with little overall planning strategy. It is now being ruined faster than ever."

University recruitment, for the first time, is becoming a problem too. Professor Skinner, who is also vice-master of Christs' College, says: "Academics, particularly those with families, are put off by the living conditions here."

> The state won't pick up the bills any more

Dons who could once afford a pleasant house in the centre of Cambridge are being forced out into ugly commuter villages like Sawton, Milton and Bourne, as the prize properties in town are snapped up by the swells from the high-tech industry. A way of life in which everyone in the university could walk or bicycle from home to lecture to room to college is nearing an end. The vision of the winsome undergraduate freewheeling down King's Parade is being replaced by one struggling on to the Park and Ride.

Cambridge's reputation in the sciences was based on the twin pillars of Newton in the 17th and 18th centuries, and Rutherford in the 20th, and perhaps more significantly on the fact that until 1848, in order to obtain a degree from the university, every undergraduate had to pass the mathematics tripos. In 1848, the Natural Science tripos was introduced, paving the way for the study of applied physics and later engineering and inevitably computers.

The university's scientists showed for a long time the classic British ability to invent brilliantly but then to have absolutely no idea how to exploit their work. Then in 1910, W.G. Pye, a technician at the Cavendish Laboratory, set up the Cambridge Instrument Company, which is now a part of Philips. It was the most important event in the evolution of Cambridge's science-based industry. Cambridge was on its way to making hard cash out of its most precious yet vaporous of commodities — ideas. In the 1960s Trinity College built its science park on the outskirts of the city, the first such site in England — Strathclyde in Scotland already had one. Trinity earned huge revenues from the science park as companies like Acorn Computers took off.

In the past two years, the high-tech revolution has gathered pace. American banks which specialise in high-tech and biotechnology companies have increased their presence in London to capitalise on Cambridge. Microsoft joins Sony, Olivetti and Oracle, all with research centres in Cambridge or substantial investment in local firms.

Hermann Hauser, who founded Acorn Computers and will run the £10 million Microsoft venture capital fund, said recently: "For years in Cambridge we've had the problem that small software companies didn't connect with the market in the rest of the world. Microsoft's investment means we will be able to attract more talent into Cambridge to make it the mini Silicon Valley that it deserves to be."

Cambridge, however, is drastically different from Silicon Valley in California or Redmond in Seattle, the home of Microsoft. These areas do not have to contend with Cambridge's traditions and geographical constraints, such as its surrounding green belt which makes development impossible or prohibitively expensive.

Robin Saxby, the chief executive of Advanced RISC Machines, a Cambridge company which employs 162 people in developing intellectual property for computer firms, says: "We are here because what we are doing started with the university. But it is not an easy place to expand. Nobody wants to be the first on a green field site. Who wants to be brave enough to start a new building in the middle of a fen?"

Unlike Cambridge, Silicon Valley and Redmond evolved simply to serve the computer industry. Microsoft's headquarters in Redmond have the feel of a university campus. Staff are encouraged to dress casually, the buildings are set in landscaped gardens with lakes, the atmosphere is youthful and creative, but unlike a university Microsoft is a business and its distinctive culture is also a corporate identity.

Those in Cambridge who oppose the way the university has been cosying up to the computer companies are not plain Luddites. They find it disturbing to have aggressive, secretive business organisations infiltrating what should be an open, liberal educational establishment. They also worry that the business ethos will lead to a more utilitarian approach to education where everything has to be justified in terms of cost-effectiveness.

"The mutual incomprehension between arts and science can produce hostility," says Professor Skinner. "Big business and universities will never share the same values, but in the past 15 years we have had to stop being so fastidious about taking their money because of the extent to which the state won't pay the bills. We can't afford to lose the chance of knowledge generation."

Diana disciples will descend on her shrine

Business is already booming around Althorp as locals prepare for many more visitors, **Rachel Kelly** reports

MICHAEL POWELL

Locals are worried that the area will be damaged when the tribute museum to Diana opens, attracting hordes of visitors

While lawyers wrangle in the South African sunshine and the British tabloids publish increasingly lurid details of the Spencers' divorce, in muddy Northamptonshire the locals are preparing for a mini boom.

The death of Diana, Princess of Wales, has turned the spotlight on a pocket of this quiet county. Villages such as Great Brington and Nobottle, Little Brington and Chapel Brampton, which were once known only to the postman, are about to be thrust on the world stage as neighbours of Althorp, the late Princess's family home. Northampton itself, six miles away, is fast becoming a hot destination.

Just as Gracelands in Memphis became a shrine to Elvis, and Monaco cathedral a monument to Princess Grace, so Althorp will earn worldwide reknown next year when the museum, planned as a tribute to the Diana, Princess of Wales, opens in the grounds of the Spencer's family home from July 1 to August 31, the Princess's birthday.

The burial site will remain private to members of the family, although the island where the Princess lies will be on view, but what Althorp describes as an "appropriate memorial to the Princess" will be erected, and the museum — featuring family photographs, memorabilia and cine film — will be built in the stable block in the grounds.

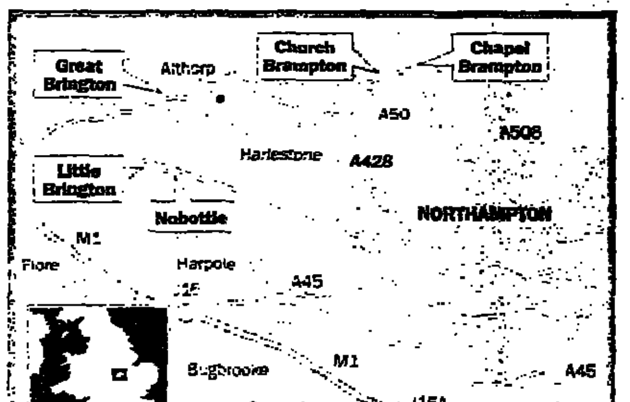
It is not yet known how many disciples of Diana will come to honour her, but tens, if not hundreds, of thousands are expected. At least 10,000 tourists annually pay homage to Princess Grace's burial place in Monaco, while 700,000 visit Gracelands.

Once, Northampton was just a place on the way to somewhere else. Now the town will become the gateway to Althorp. Hotels are already fielding calls from tour groups who wish to stay next summer, and there is a premium on property in the area suitable for hotel accommodation.

Simon Hastie, general manager of the The Marriott at Daventry Hotel at Flore, the closest hotel to the house, says: "We have had 15 enquiries from large tour groups wanting to stay in July and August. We have never had tour groups before, but they will not commit themselves until they are sure they can buy tickets into Althorp."

Hotels and inns in the area are shooting up in value. One businessman who wants to buy in the area complains that he can't find a hotel for love nor money. "I think you could go to the market and demand at least 20 per cent more than three months ago," says a local estate agent.

John Sheppard of Robert Barry, a company specialising in the sales of hotels and inns, says pubs within ten to 15 miles of Althorp will do a roaring trade. "The pubs, particularly, because people will come on day trips."



At the Chicago Rock Café in Northampton, which opened this week, manager Kate Moravesky is expecting busloads of Americans. "Groups of them will come in once they have paid their respects," she predicts. The Post Office in Great Brington, a village on the estate of Althorp park, is already seeing a steady stream of 20 to 30 visitors a day. Locals estimate that this will rise to 250 a day in the spring. The Japanese, Australians and Americans are already buying tea towels, calendars and bookmarks from the village shop, as well as asking for anecdotes about the Princess. Many visitors come simply to pay their respects, says Ian Lowry, the church warden of Great Brington church. Despite cold weather, last weekend 100 tourists arrived at the church. Where once the building stood empty for most of the week, now local worthies man it for four hours a day to cater for the influx.

But Mr Lowry is cautious about providing facilities, such as public conveniences, for the visitors, reflecting a widely held wish that the area around Althorp should not become a Diana theme park. "If we provide the facilities, then more people will come."

Earl Spencer on the island where his sister is buried

Further out from Althorp, the corridor between Northampton and the estate itself is now attracting commercial interest. Stephen King from estate agents Strutt & Parker says: "We expect that some of the more traditional houses set close to the A428 may open their doors." Some of the larger village houses open as B&Bs, and the odd gift shop is expected too, but most locals are still adopting a wait-and-see approach.

Ninian Sanders, partner in the Northampton agents Bidwells, is more bullish. The area has long been undervalued, he says. "It's been a bit of a secret until now." He expects prices to rise nearby, mainly because of improved rail links to London which is now just an hour away. Local people are anxious that the expected tourist explosion should be carefully controlled however. One possibility is restricting the volume of visitors to the village by creating authorised routes.

Local people fear that narrow country lanes around Althorp will not be able to deal with the traffic.

Northampton County Council is considering a parking ban and speed limits along the main road past Althorp. Daventry District Council is working with Althorp and parish councils to deal with the expected impact on the environment.

Simon Bovey, a council spokesman, says: "Althorp is not a tourist attraction but a family burial site, so we don't want to encourage people by offering accommodation. Of course, those who have admission to Althorp will be provided with facilities, but no provisions will be made for visitors without tickets."

Whether such plans succeed in keeping the area's character, and the memorial's dignity, is no more possible to predict than was the early death of Diana.

● *Additional research by Alex Wijeratne.*

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PUNCH

A night out with Edward Whitehouse, David Brunton and Simon Bligh and the house where Ffion lived in Oxford

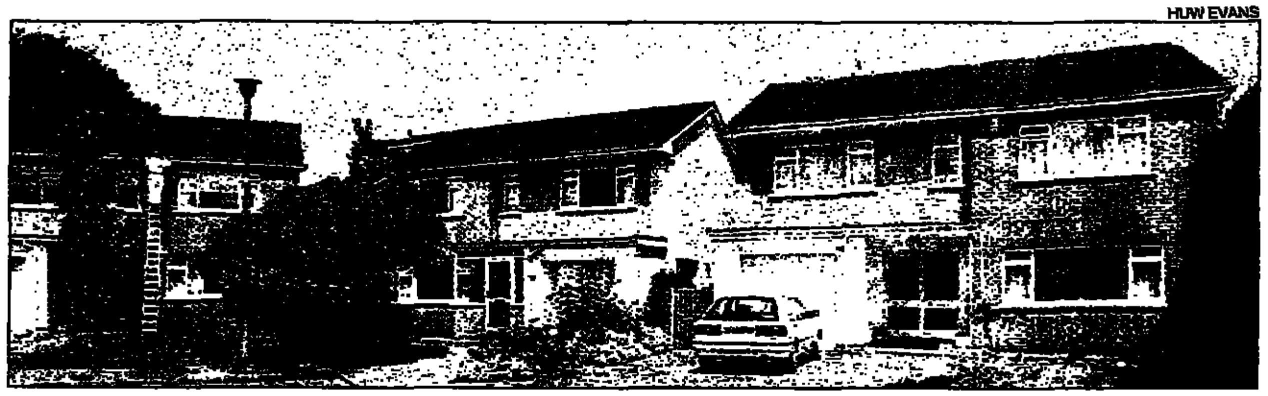
HUW EVANS

Ffion's father, Emyr, is a former director of the Eisteddfod. Her mother, Myra, is a magistrate and a Welsh tutor

PETER NICHOLLS

Larking about in her college days as a brunette

HUW EVANS


The Jenkins's family home is a modest house in the middle-class Cardiff suburb of Rhiwbina

PETER NICHOLLS

Ffion and William greet the Thatchers at this year's Conservative Party conference in Blackpool

That dress: oversold as a see-through number costing £2,000

Continued from page 1

is cultural rather than political. Her pilgrimage to the heart of the British political establishment began in the middle-class Cardiff suburb of Rhiwbina. Her father Emyr is chief executive of the Arts Council of Wales and a former director of the National Eisteddfod. Her mother Myra is a magistrate and Welsh tutor.

Not that Ffion had it all her own way. Her elder sister, Manon, was also a high flyer and the two girls competed fiercely for the glittering prizes, with Ffion determined never to come second even if that meant missing out on playground fun and games. Both were musical, with Manon favouring the harp and Ffion the clarinet, which she played with the National Youth Orchestra of Wales.

As one classmate puts it: "Ffion wasn't very well liked in school. She kept things to herself and was rather aloof. She was academic and hard-working but she always seemed rather old-fashioned and eccentric. She never had a boyfriend and was known as a bit of a snob."

Manon went to Cambridge, collected a PhD and is now assistant private secretary to the Prince of Wales and when Ffion went to Oxford, her father was overheard to remark rather smugly: "There's no chance of us losing the boat race in this house."

Ffion (three As and a B at A level) got a good degree in English and a master's by writing a thesis in Welsh on the poetry of the English writer Thomas Gray.

Manon, three years older and married to the Welsh baritone Jeremy Huw Williams, abandoned the tussle with Ffion only after learning of her sister's engagement.

A family friend says: "Manon rang her father to be told that Ffion was marrying William. Admitting defeat, she replied: 'Well, that's the end of sibling rivalry'."

By all accounts Ffion blossomed at Jesus College, where she became chairman of the Welsh Society and devised some bizarre swearing-in ceremonies, mostly involving swinging the society's ceremonial sword about her head. One rowdy evening, a fellow student hurled the sword in the air and Ffion had to be hauled off to the Radcliffe Infirmary for stiches to a leg wound.

A university friend recalls: "She was still a swot in college but she made more of an effort to socialise. She had a boyfriend and tried to wear trendy clothes. She would come out partying but was still hard-working and competitive."

Ffion's discretion is commented upon by virtually all her friends. One says, a touch cattily, that she would make the "ideal corporate wife", which, since she is marrying a former management consultant, may be no bad thing. Another says that he was with her and a group of other people the night before she and William announced their engagement. "I didn't even know they were seeing each other," he admits. "And except for Manon, I don't think any of the others were in the know."

Others point out that when her former boss John Redwood stood against John Major for the Tory leadership in 1995, Ffion managed to stay above the fray. Redwood's allies counter that she was never really one of them and affect an indifference to her supposed talents. "I don't really have any view about her at all," one says.

Ffion's tact is a trait that should stand her in good stead now that she is entering the snake-pit of national politics. So far, she has acquitted herself well, smiling at William's side and keeping mum.

Only that dress — oversold as a see-through lace number costing £2,000 — fell a little short of Liz Hurley dimensions when she was paraded by the PR men at the Tory conference.

Her former men also appear to have taken the Taffia's vow of silence. Keith Scott, a French lecturer at Aberystwyth University, who went out with her for two years while she was at Jesus College, Oxford, has nothing but goodwill towards the happy couple. "I wish them the very best of luck," he says cordially, while declining to say if he had been invited to the wedding.

Another old flame, Darran Phillips, a £150,000-a-year financial planning consultant with Allied Dunbar in Cardiff, admits he has not been asked to the wedding although he claims that he and Miss Jenkins are still "very good friends". In spite of Mr Hague's financial acumen, Mr Phillips maintains that he will continue to supervise her financial affairs after her marriage.

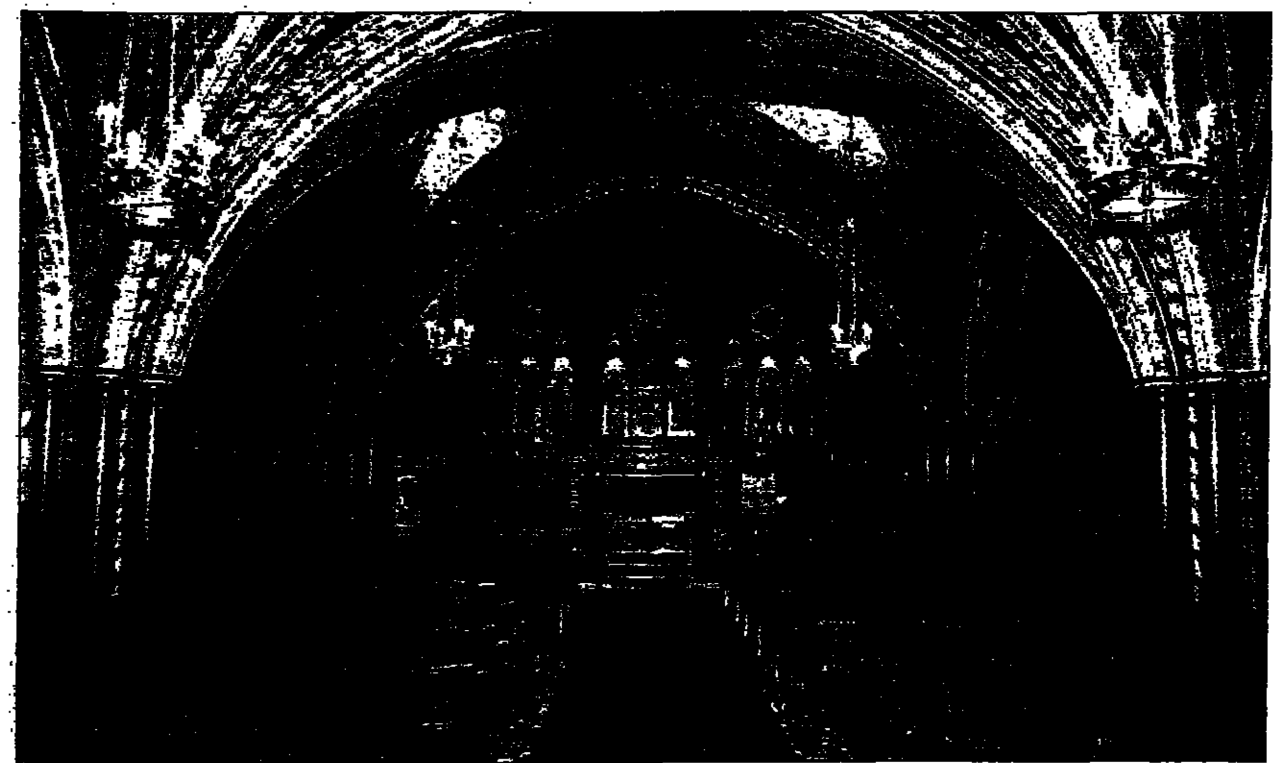
One London friend describes her as "a good time girl", and rather regrets that he has has not seen her more often recently at one of her former regular haunts, the Groucho Club in Soho.

"Central Office may have banned her from coming here since she started seeing William because of its rather louche reputation," he says. Regulars include Damien Hirst, Liam Gallagher and Chris Evans.

"She used to hang out here with her Welsh friends and there was a pianist she saw a lot of." Other *habituées* of the Groucho tell of a left-wing poet that Ffion took a shine to before she started stepping out with Mr Hague.

Tomorrow Ffion and William will attend a party marking the second anniversary of SWS (which means kiss in Welsh) at a club in Hanover Square. The television weather girl Sian Lloyd will cut a cake shaped as a pair of lips. Conservative Party spin-doctors and the happy couple alike will hope that it is a good omen.

The wedding chapel was once used as a stable and a coal cellar


The Medieval Crypt at Westminster has been the venue for many society weddings and MPs' funerals

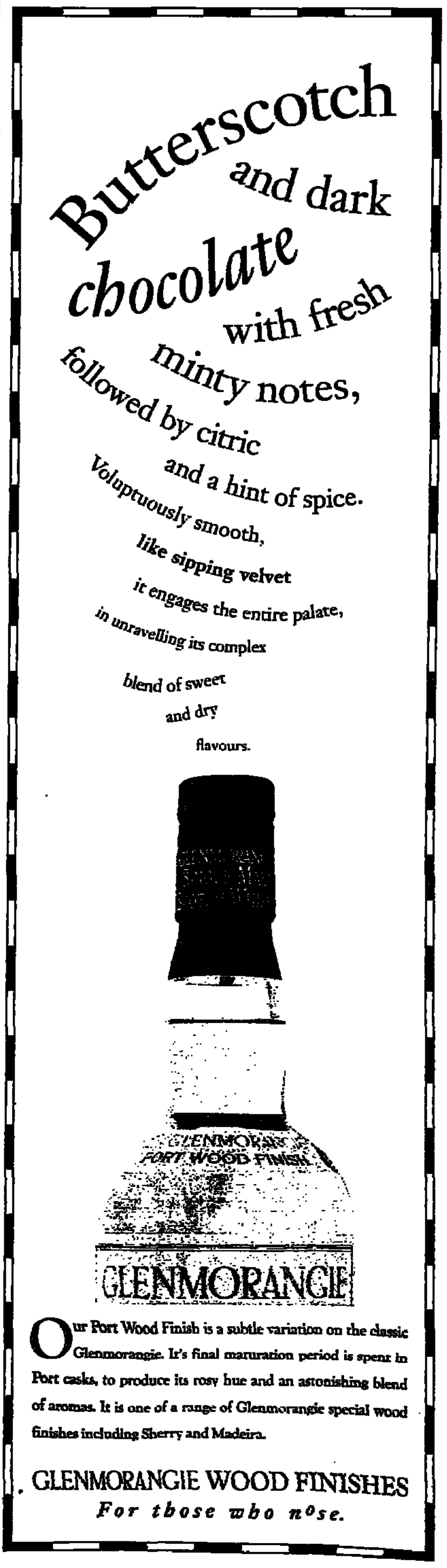
The Medieval Crypt in the Palace of Westminster, where William Hague and Ffion Jenkins will tie the knot, was built as a chapel but in the past it has been used as a stable, a coal cellar and as the Speaker's changing room, *Katherine Bergen writes.* A ruling in 1924 dictated that the chapel does not come under any specific ecclesiastical jurisdiction.

Along with Westminster Hall which it adjoins, it was one of the few areas of the Palace that survived a fire in 1834. It is now used frequently for weddings, baptisms and the funerals of MPs.

In 1993, Ann Widdecombe was received into the Catholic Church in the crypt, in one of the few non-Protestant masses held there since the Reformation. The Reverend Ian Paisley duly protested. Labour MP Diane Abbott's baby was christened there and it has been the venue for many society weddings. On seeing the Tory MP Peter Fry leave the chapel after marrying his much younger second wife in 1984, the then Speaker of the Commons, George Thomas, remarked to a party of visiting dignitaries: "Isn't it splendid to see a father giving away his daughter?"

The service is expected to be traditional with the Speaker's Chaplain and a Welsh minister both officiating.

The engaged couple enjoy a drink at the Carlton Club


Butterscotch and dark chocolate with fresh minty notes, followed by citric and a hint of spice. Voluptuously smooth, like sipping velvet it engages the entire palate, in unravelling its complex blend of sweet and dry flavours.

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E D U M A N D T W E E D L E D E E K P

The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Tom Whitelaw, of Bearsden in Scotland

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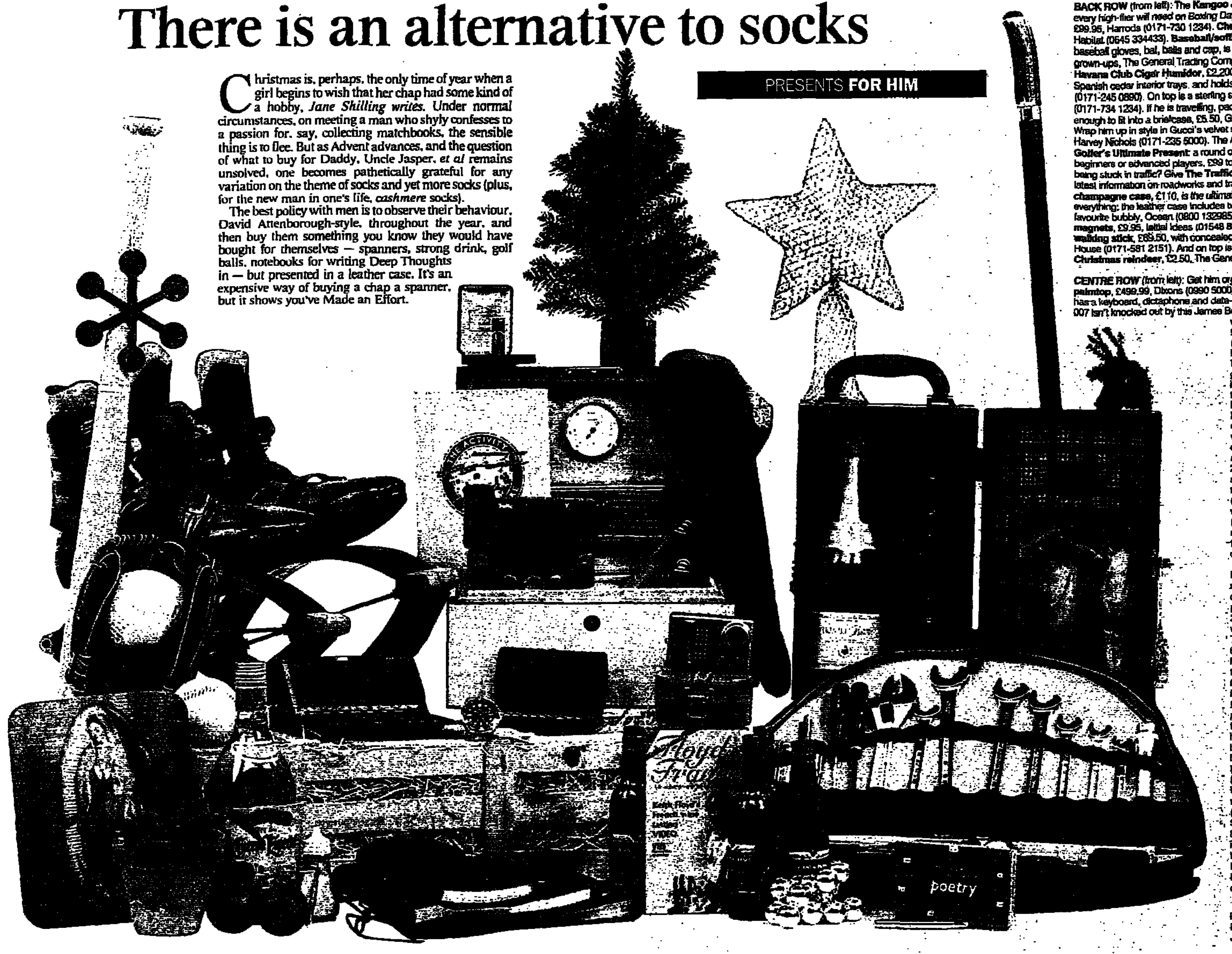
There is an alternative to socks

PRESENTS **FOR HIM**

Christmas is, perhaps, the only time of year when a girl begins to wish that her chap had some kind of a hobby, *Jane Shilling writes.* Under normal circumstances, on meeting a man who shyly confesses to a passion for, say, collecting matchbooks, the sensible thing is to flee. But as Advent advances, and the question of what to buy for Daddy, Uncle Jasper, *et al* remains unsolved, one becomes pathetically grateful for any variation on the theme of socks and yet more socks (plus, for the new man in one's life, *cashmere* socks).

The best policy with men is to observe their behaviour, David Attenborough-style, throughout the year, and then buy them something you know they would have bought for themselves — spanners, strong drink, golf balls, notebooks for writing Deep Thoughts in — but presented in a leather case. It's an expensive way of buying a chap a spanner, but it shows you've Made an Effort.



BACK ROW (from left): The **Kangoo Jump Boots** are the fat-burners every high-flier will need on Boxing Day to jump off Christmas excesses, £99.95, Harrods (0171-730 1234). **Christmas star** decoration, £1.50, Habitat (0645 334433). **Baseball/softball set**, £84, which includes baseball gloves, bat, balls and cap, is a must for sporty kids and not-so grown-ups, The General Trading Company (0171-730 0411) The **Havana Club Cigar Humidor**, £2,200, is made from sycamore with Spanish cedar interior trays, and holds up to 75 cigars, The Havana Club (0171-245 0890). On top is a sterling silver **cigar cutter**, £115, Liberty (0171-734 1234). If he is traveling, pack a **baby Christmas tree** small enough to fit into a briefcase, £5.50, Graham & Greene (0171-727 4594) Wrap him up in style in Gucci's velvet **scarf**, £265, in red and orange, Harvey Nichols (0171-235 5000). The Activity Superstore has the **Golfer's Ultimate Present**: a round of golf with a professional, for beginners or advanced players, £99 to £239 (01799 526526) Sick of him being stuck in traffic? Give **The Trafficmaster**, £169, which provides the latest information on roadworks and traffic jams, Harrods, as above The **champagne case**, £110, *is the ultimate gift for the man* who has everything; the leather case includes two glasses and space for his favourite bubbly, Ocean (0800 132985) Inside are **Venus fridge magnets**, £9.95, Initial Ideas (01548 831070). Behind is a **wooden walking stick**, £69.50, with concealed flask and cups, The Scotch House (0171-581 2151). And on top is a **silver mesh star**, £11 95, and **Christmas reindeer**, £2.50, The General Trading Company (as above).

CENTRE ROW (from left): Get him organised with the **Psion Series 5 palmtop**, £499.99, Dixons (0990 500049). The 8Mb handheld computer has a keyboard, dictaphone and data-transfer capability. If the wannabe 007 isn't knocked out by this James Bond-style **watch** from Omega, he will be if he finds out the price: £1,095, Watches of Switzerland (0171-734 2389) The five-language **translator**, £69.95 from Harrods (as above), allows the globetrotter *to converse wherever* he is at the flick of a switch. If he is the sort of man who wants to see images instantly, he will love the Panasonic DC1000 **digital camera**, which will allow him to view pictures on his PC, alter their colour and crop out unwanted memories, £399, Tecno (01442 215151). Help him to keep his studs and cufflinks together with this tan leather **stud box**, £55, Pink (0171-498 3882) Wrench his heart with the ultimate **toolkit**, Connolly (0171-235 3883), which contains every tool a *handyman* will need in the finest leather case. Made to order, from £1,200.

FRONT ROW (from left): If he's religious about sitting in front of his computer, the **Madonna mouse-pad** is for him, £15.95, Aria (0171-226 1021). Give him a prickly kick with the **Tequilla Shooter Kit**, £45, The Gluttonous Gardener (0171-627 0800), which includes fresh limes, glasses, salt and a bottle of the best tequila. A **leather book**, Ocean (as above), available in black or brown leather, £13.95 to £24.95, will keep his ideas in one place. If a bottle of wine in front of the telly is his idea of a good time, he will love **Floyd's France** — an interactive video with four quarter-bottles of wine, £12.99, Tesco (01992 632222), Victoria Wine (01483 715066), Caxton & Tower Wines (0181-758 4500). **Silver mini baubles**, £3.95 for 12, Habitat (as above): The **Magnetic Word Set**, £14.95, Initial Ideas (01548 831070) lets him spell out what he is feeling on the fridge door. For the adventurer, the chrome **Space Pen**, £17.50, Aria (as above) will be invaluable as it writes under water, over grease or in blazing heat.

Photographs by **Des Jenson**. Research and styling by **Jennifer Rüggeberg**

Antique furniture going for a song

When opera diva Lesley Garrett started doing up her cottage in Lincolnshire, there was only one place to go. **Michael Cable** reports

my favourite shop

"So are you going to give us a song then, luv?" comes the cheery call from a fellow browser, catching sight of opera star Lesley Garrett across the old barn showroom cluttered with antique pine furniture.

"Well, I might," teases Britain's No l soprano, looking up with a smile from the autograph books she is signing enthusiastically for three local schoolgirls. Ms Garrett is making one of her regular visits to Epworth Pine & Country Furniture in Epworth, North Lincolnshire.

Everybody up here seems to be on chatting terms with the hugely popular "people's diva". She was born and brought up just across the border in South Yorkshire and has a close-knit family of more than 50 relatives living in the area. Fiercely proud of her working-class roots, she has a weekend cottage just up the road. "I live in London these days but this is still home," she says. "I get back whenever I can."

It was after she bought the cottage ten years ago and started doing it up that she first discovered the workshop where Richard Ellory and Bryan Chaffer had set up in business together, selling not only genuine antique pine furniture but also beautifully crafted reproduction pieces made from reclaimed timber.

"It was my sister, Jill, who put me onto them," she recalls. "Old pine was exactly what I needed for the cottage. When I went along I just fell in love with Richard Ellory's workshop and the way he works. He takes wood that looks as if it is only fit for the bonfire and a fortnight later he has turned it into a fantastic piece of antique pine furniture."

Ms Garrett has furnished her cottage from top to bottom with their pieces. "The first thing I bought was a Welsh dresser," she remembers. "The base was original and the top half was made so cleverly from reclaimed timber that you couldn't tell the difference. I was interested in its history.

"Then there was a rather unusual pine chaise longue which they let me have for £120 and which has since turned out to be rather valuable. Perhaps we'd better not mention that!" One of the farmhouse tables in which the shop specialises, several chairs, a corner washstand, a blanket chest and various picture frames followed. "Every time I finished a room I would come here to furnish it," Ms Garrett says.

She had bought the cottage and had thrown herself into the job of doing it up as a sort of "healing therapy" after the break-up of a relationship had left her feeling "fed up and unloved", she explains. "The cottage was in a very sad, dilapidated state and, a bit like me at the time, needed some care and attention. And I thought — I'm going to buy this little place and 'love it up', as we say in Yorkshire. I filled in every little crack myself and it was like a healing process for me, too."

It certainly seemed to do the trick because no sooner had she finished the restoration three years later than she famously met her GP husband, Peter, on a blind date and was so smitten that she moved in with him only days later. At the same time, she landed a record deal and made the first of a string of best- selling albums. The latest, *A Soprano Inspired*, has gone straight to No l in the classical charts.

It was quite a while before Messrs Ellory and Chaffer realised who their regular customer was.

"We had no idea she was famous," Mr Ellory says. "She was just this lovely, bubbly, bags-of-character type of person.

"Then, after she'd been coming here regularly for a couple of years, I was watching the *Last Night of the Proms* on the television one night and, suddenly, there she was! I got such a shock. I literally fell off the settee."

Friendly, funny, feisty and refreshingly down-to-earth, the 42-year-old prima donna relishes the ordinary, one-of-us treatment she still gets on her home patch.

"I'm nobody special up here — just the local girl," she insists cheerfully in her Yorkshire accent, as blunt as ever.

Her glamorous image, her readiness to sing pop songs and showtunes as well as the classics, and her enthusiasm for appearing on television programmes like *Noel's House Party* and *Birds of a Feather* have caused raised eyebrows among the snootier opera set. Her forthcoming television duet with Lily Savage (on December 21) will undoubtedly have them once more reaching for the smelling salts.

CHRISTOPHER BARKER

Lesley Garrett with Richard Ellory and Bryan Chaffer at Epworth Pine & Country Furniture in Lincolnshire

"Good!" she grins mischievously. "There is an element that fears that the more popular something becomes, the cheaper and nastier it gets, but I would argue vehemently against them. We need to break down the snobbery surrounding opera and classical music.

"You can make it popular without making it trivial. People just need to be exposed to it, as was proved by Pavarotti, *Nessun Dorma* and the World Cup. We need to learn from pop singers in making opera more accessible, otherwise it will die."

● *Epworth Pine & Country Furniture, 35 Station Road, Epworth, Lincs DN9 1JY (01427 875155). Open 10am-5pm, seven days a week.*

GADGETS

THE EGG Decapper sits on top of a boiled egg and you twist a tiny [illegible] blade through 360 degrees to take off the shell, leaving the egg intact. But it helps to have asbestos fingers, since you have to steady the egg to work the gadget.

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Egg Decapper

The Banana Split from Taylor & Ng is a 10in banana-shaped plastic stencil, in yellow, with a series of thin cross-way slats. One push and the peeled fruit is neatly sliced into perfect mouthfuls for banana sandwiches or banoffi pies.

TIM WAPSHOTT

● *Egg Decapper, £3.50 plus p&p, from Presents for Men (01295 750100); Toast Tongs, £6 plus p&p, from Purves & Purves (0870 603 0205); Banana Split, £1.75, from Taylor & Ng (0181-942 9361).*

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SEVEN SEAS

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Mere slips of things

Talk about British knitwear, and the first thing that comes to mind is bulky, chunky, Arran styles — sloppy joes and jumpers worn by country aunties because they are warm, comfortable and conservative.

This year, however, the knitted and crocheted wear so beloved of the Women's Institute has been revitalised by top designers, who have shown a range of modern knitwear alongside more traditional materials on the catwalks.

Catriona Campbell of the International Wool Secretariat says designers have taken to the material because it is versatile and can be used "to cover the female form in an exciting and contemporary way". The latest looks are far from the British stereotypes: wispy and fairy-like, they are strung together with cobweb strands that hug the body in feminine wafts. Many are woven in the finest denier, which drapes beautifully across the body or can be seductively wrapped to enhance womanly curves.

"Crocheted items are especially feminine, as they can be made of any denier, so they can be made to look delicate for evening or dressed down for day," says Lainey Keogh, the Irish knitwear specialist. "Women like to feel like women. And our range makes them feel that way, as well as making them appear modern and lithe."

If proof were needed that women like Keogh's range, there was plenty at her show. Naomi Campbell and Helena Christensen both agreed to waive their modelling fee in return for one of her dresses.

As well as "beautiful, warm, jewel-coloured" sweaters, Keogh showed a ravishing sheer black fishnet knitted dress worn by Jodie Kidd, fine denier mohair tops in amethyst, tomato and amber, and a long, fine-knit coat trimmed with ostrich modelled by Helena Christensen.

Keogh's creations have also become coveted items in Hollywood, and her lacy evening dresses are worn by Demi Moore, Liz Taylor and Isabella Rossellini.

John Rocha's creations have also been in demand this year, particularly the hand-knitted and hand-crocheted dresses which he hand-dyes to keep the silky textures.

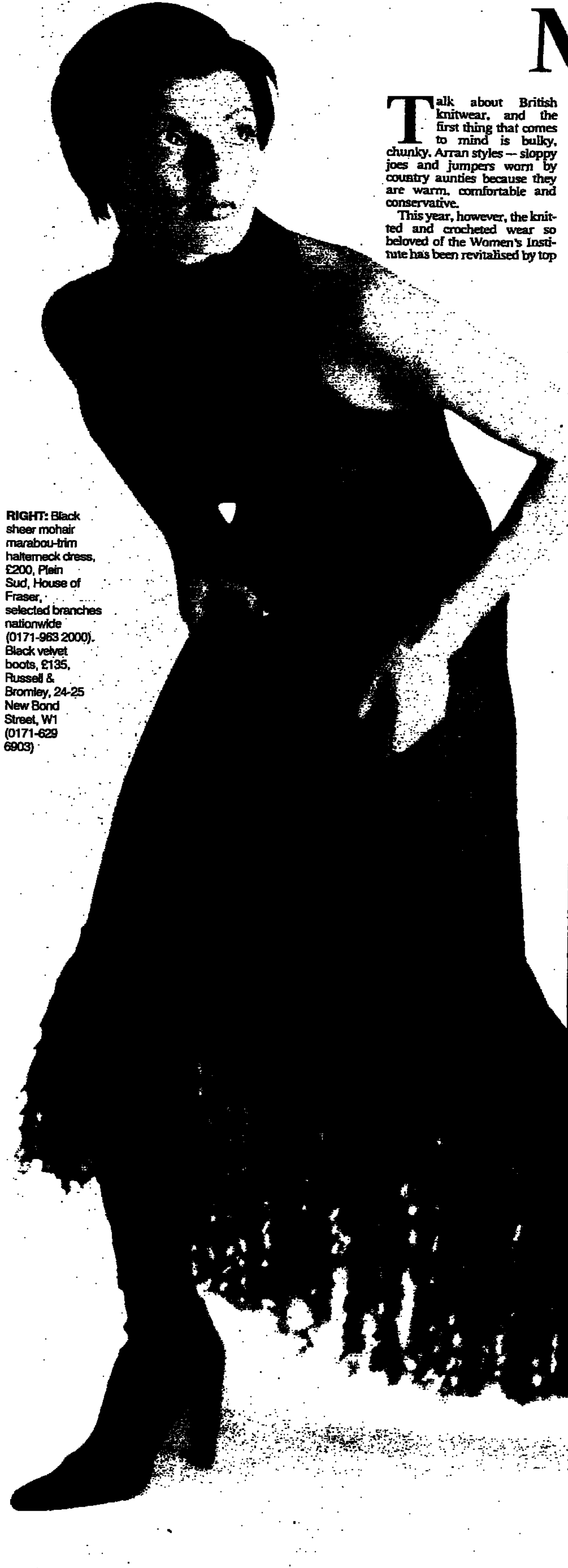
"I have always used fine knits in my collections," he says, "as I love the idea of a gossamer layer skimming the body. For spring/summer 1998, I have featured delicate knits and fine crochets throughout the collection in different textures, from fringing and ribbon yarn to fragile textures. The brave can wear them on their own, but most women will wear them over a dress or camisole."

Although skimpy dresses are ideal for summer, they can be adapted for winter, combined with soft woollen coats, light cashmere throws and even straight-leg pants. And, because of their transparency, the fine wool combinations are perfect to wear in layers — with silk underslips in warm tones or with delicately patterned tights for a warm and opulent look.

They can be given a bohemian look by teaming them with thick, fur-trimmed cardigans and square-toed boots or an elegant twist by wearing them with fine jewellery and high heels, or they can be combined with classic separates for everyday wear.

And, because most of the items are made of natural fibres, the dresses are not only comfortable, but they also allow the body to breathe. Which means that, even in the hottest parties over the Christmas season, women in fine knits will merely glow.

LISA GRAINGER



RIGHT: Black sheer mohair marabou-trim halterneck dress, £200, Plein Sud, House of Fraser, selected branches nationwide (0171-963 2000). Black velvet boots, £135, Russell & Bromley, 24-25 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 6903)

ABOVE: Blue, white and black zig-zag silky knit dress, £29.99, Jeffrey Rogers, The Plaza, Oxford Street, W1, and branches nationwide (01923 474400)

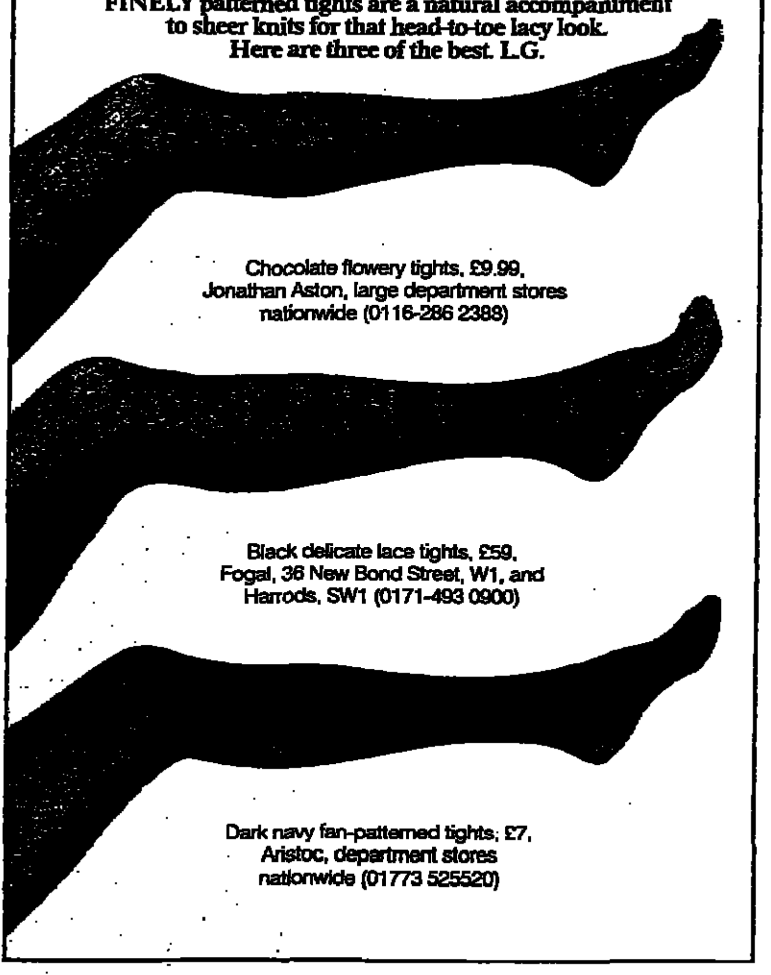
LEFT: Brown and white delicate sheer top, £98, John Richmond, Harrods, SW1: Selfridges, W1 (0171-978 5278). Chocolate fine-knit A-line skirt, £239, T.S.E, Harvey Nichols, as before. Beige square-toe shoes, £49.99, Ravel, branches nationwide (0171-436 3126)

FAR LEFT: Khaki wool crêpe fine-knit vest, £199, T.S.E, Harvey Nichols, SW1 (0171-263 4433). Plum suede jeans, £259, Joseph, 26 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-590 6200)

LEFT: Burgundy lace knit dress, £49.99, River Island, branches nationwide (0181-998 8822)

THREE OF A KIND

FINELY patterned tights are a natural accompaniment to sheer knits for that head-to-toe lacy look. Here are three of the best. L.G.



Chocolate flowery tights, £9.99, Jonathan Aston, large department stores nationwide (0116-286 2388)

Black delicate lace tights, £59, Fogal, 36 New Bond Street, W1, and Harrods, SW1 (0171-493 0900)

Dark navy fan-patterned tights; £7, Aristoc, department stores nationwide (01773 525520)

Photographs by **Richard Burns**. Hair and make-up by **Sally Kvalheim** for Jo Hansford (0171-963 2236). Styling by **Amandip Uppal**

The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Tom Whitelaw, of Bearsden in Scotland

هكذا من الاصل

'My grandfather would have been so proud to see his grandson waving a flag at royalty at a grand ceremonial occasion'

Some day my prince will come

LIFE AND SOUL

JANE SHILLING

It is a strange and remarkable process, the one whereby having *children turns you, despite all your* resolutions to the contrary, into your own parents. As a small girl I remember being both baffled and enraged by my mother and father's mysterious interest in that triple-distilled essence of boredom, the weather forecast. The weather, I felt, would do whatever it was destined to do, regardless of whether my parents *were on its case or not. And anyway, why* couldn't they just look out of the window?

Yet now, every morning at five to seven, and again at five to eight, I find *myself, quite inexplicably, given that I* work all day in a windowless office, shielded alike from the heat of the sun and the winter's rage, going, "shhhh! Alexander, *do* shut up!" as Michael Fish drones his strangely compelling recital of southerlies veering north-westerly and pockets of frost in exposed areas.

Last week was a particularly anxious time on the weather front. Even Alexander took to falling silent at the vital moment. We were keen to know what was in store for the Queen's Golden Wedding lunch. Not that we usually take such a close interest in Her Majesty's welfare, but while she was attending the People's Banquet, the Prince of Wales was to escort a coach party of his European relatives down to Greenwich for a hot lunch, and Commander Maughan, of the Royal Naval College, *had had the inspired idea of inviting* children from the local schools to form a *welcoming party — but only if the* weather was fine.

So, banners were made, saying "Welcome" in as many European languages *as the parents could muster; flags were* laboriously coloured ("Mum, what does *the Belgian flag look like?*" "Haven't a clue. Can't you just do the French one, like everyone else?"), but Thursday morning dawned wet and spiteful. We drove to school under a sky of lurid grey. Blackheath, as we sloshed across it, had turned into a quaking bog of the sort that you could imagine engulfing entire classes of small children, to be dug up, thousands of years hence, by eager archaeologists, marvelling at the perfect state of preservation of their little acrylic sweatshirts.

"Oh dear," I said to Alexander. "I think it's all off, *really. You won't be* seeing the kings sit *down to dinner and* the queens stand up *to dance after all.* What a *shame.*" I *was amazingly disappointed* — far more put out than Alexander, who had gone to all the trouble of making the flags and banners. I think it was the idea of how proud my grandfather, sentimental as only an old sailor can be, would have been to see his great-grandson among the children at what, presumably, will be one of the last ceremonial occasions to take place at the Royal Naval College before its transformation into luxury offices, or a hostel for the homeless, or whatever fate awaits it. I sat at work all day, listening to the rain beating on the roof and minding terrifically about all those flags unwaved *and banners* unhoisted.

"So," *I said to Alexander* when I got home. "What did you do today?"

"Well," said the child, with the dégagé air of one who spends so much time hob-nobbing with the Hohenlöhes that it has become a bit of a bore, really, "it dried up at lunchtime, so we went and waved our flags after all."

"Oh," I said, thrilled. "And did you see Prince Charles?" "Yeah," said Alexander. "And Jamie got kissed by the Queen of Spain." A pause. "*Girlie!*"

Coo. Well, there's regal for you. I opened my mouth to ask more. What was she wearing? Did she have her crown on? Why didn't she kiss *you*? Were you by any chance *sniffing* in that revolting fashion? But Alexander had clearly had enough of the subject, and headed me off like an equerry deflecting an importunate subject. "*Now, mum,*" he said. "Miss Cartwright says it's nearly Advent. *So, what do you want for Christmas?*"

This is a very good question. The standing list of what I want (star *sapphire, three-gallon vat of Après* L'Ondée) still stands, of course, but what I actually *need* is something to help me get to grips with this house. What with the hot water flood, and the huge, slimy green fungus that has sprouted just by the back door, and the cold water flood (this last prompted an interesting reversion to type in Alexander, who drifted into my bedroom on the morning it happened, saying, in a tone of languid detachment which he certainly did not learn from *me*, "is there *meant* to be all that water on the floor downstairs?"), the charming, slightly decayed cottage that I bought four years ago seems to be turning into the House of Usher.

The last straw came on Friday, when I stepped into the bathroom, tugged sharply on the light *pull* — and it came off in my hand. Now, I am not my grandmother, who was once intercepted, climbing, in a triumph of self-confidence over ability, a stepladder with a carving knife in her hand, intending to cut down the electric light to which she had, for some reason, taken a dislike. I am perfectly prepared to admit that anything *to do with* electricity has me beaten.

But as I took my shower that evening, *by the guttering* chiaroscuro of a Price's night light, it occurred to me that the time *has come to abandon my silly, frivolous* ways. What I had better have for *Christmas is a do-it-yourself manual:* a thick volume called something like *The Idiot Woman's Guide to Domestic Intelligence* — or *How to Get the Upper Hand in Your Home.*

WHY MARRIAGES SUCCEED OR FAIL
AND HOW YOU CAN MAKE YOURS LAST
JOHN GOTTMAN

Left. Professor John Gottman and, above, his book

KOBAL

Hard times: Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor, the embittered couple in *Whose Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

Marriage counsellor **Madeleine Kingsley** meets John Gottman, whose mix of science and therapy offers hope to troubled couples

Get the hell out of a heavenly match

An American in London this week has unusual designs on your marriage. John Gottman, *Professor of* Psychology at the University of Washington, is here to tell us how any couple — even one at divorce's door — can improve their relationship through a repair and maintenance programme developed in his own Seattle "Love Lab". Finding that seven years *after marriage, 75 per cent feel* less happy than they originally did. *Professor* Gottman set about studying what researchers had sorely neglected: a scientific study of what made up the 25 per cent.

His controversial approach involves couples having ECG electrodes attached to chests, *sweat detectors, pulse monitors and a video camera closing in on every expression* and gesture.

Contrary to myth, he found it was not financial ease or compatibility that made the difference, but the way happy couples steered their way through disagreements without drowning in the destructive rapids of criticism, contempt, defensiveness and silent sulks.

Arguing, he says, "can be one of the healthiest things a *couple can do", provided* they make up easily and are as free with affection as anger.

If the amount of time spent touching, smiling, laughing and paying compliments outweighs by a ratio of five to one the time spent at odds, then you have got what Professor Gottman calls "the magic". "I think a good marriage is like a jazz quartet," he says. "It's about the music a couple *makes together ...* and the way they improvise."

*In the past 20 years. Profes*sor Gottman (55, twice married, with a *seven-year-old* daughter), has analysed not *just the feelings but the physi*ology of hundreds of husbands and wives: the way their pulse rate, respiration and blood pressure *react* in *everyday* conversation and strife.

Over here, *he may not yet* have the chat-show clout of marriage gurus Dr Ruth (sex enhancement) or John Gray (*Women are from Venus, Men are from Mars*) but in America, *the cerebral psychologist* who has coupled the appliance of science with the art of love is hot property.

The professor fields 20 calls a day from anxious spouses and also deals with a punishing schedule of long-distance flights, lectures, counsellor training programmes and fruitful weekend workshops for 100 couples. "After 24-hour follow-up sessions, 35 per cent say their marriage has improved from terrible to pretty OK," he says, "and if they follow my programme — five *hours a week — then it's going* to keep getting better."

Some people, he says, "aren't prepared to restructure *their time. They say 'If I have* to talk to my partner in order *to have a good marriage, then* to hell with that.' But couples *who make the biggest gains* have a two-minute morning leave-taking ritual, a 20-minute evening reunion to unwrap the day, and a bedtime kiss.

"Five minutes more at some point in the day goes on a brief *phone call, a note, or maybe* a thank-you for doing the grocery shopping. At least two hours a week is to be splurged on a date away from the children."

Confident in the long-term potential for vibrant, power-sharing marriages, Professor Gottman provides a welcome antidote to reactionaries who have met rising American divorce rates with outraged moral panic.

In the past year five Southern states have introduced an optional covenant marriage for those couples who have agreed to divorce only in extreme *circumstances such as physi*cal abuse.

"It's an attempt to oust no-fault divorce in a sinister kind of way," says *Professor* Gottman. "I can see couples pressured into it as one says, 'I am sure you'd choose the covenant if you really loved me, honey'."

Heaven forbid that should happen here, where we have *the highest divorce rate in* Europe. In one generation, *says the Office of Statistics,* the numbers marrying have halved and the numbers divorcing have trebled.

Nearly three million children grow up in step-families. Four out of ten UK marriages end in divorce at a public cost of more than £4 billion a year. If Professor Gottman's disciplined, down-to-earth techniques help to reverse the tide of marital misery, we could be counting our social blessings.

As a couples counsellor, I *am not convinced that the* reserved British are ripe for *revealing their problems* — with communication, in-laws *and sexual desire. For many,* simply seeking help and trusting a professional stranger is hard enough.

"With impartial observations and statistics," claims Professor Gottman, "you can hear nature tell you what is true." But I doubt that he has rumbled the universal solution to discord *à deux.* Marriage is a coat that comes *in many designs and colours.* One size will never fit all.

However, some will find Professor Gottman's clear prescriptions distinctly more palatable than exploration through "talking therapy". And, at the risk of gender generalisation, I suspect the chief beneficiaries will be men, who fare far worse in divorce than women, of whom 71 per cent are the initiators.

Among divorced men, 51 per cent later regret splitting; they earn on average 10 per cent less than otherwise identical *married men and* are at greater risk of heart disease. *For men, the professor's appeal* is as a practical problem-solver rather than a theorist.

"My workshops attract men who read science fiction, think logically and believe that technical research really counts," he says. "They are builders as well as lawyers."

Gottman thinks women have made huge emotional and lifestyle shifts in the past 30 years, and that it is now men's turn to catch up. He agrees that women have historically taken responsibility for family happiness, and are more adept at reading feelings and opening discussion on emotional issues. So his "love labs" may be a venue where men can learn what comes naturally to women.

Workshops begin with his own Love Map board game, *which tests what couples know* about each other. "Some *husbands know a lot about their* wives' world. They've seen her *in the workplace, they know* her cast of friends, her least *favourite relatives,* her favourite novels, dreams and concerns. But if they realise they could know an awful lot more, it's not painful: it's fun. It's gratifying to hear them say 'Oh, is this what she really wants? I can definitely do this.'"

Professor Gottman's ideal is to prevent couples giving up *on marriage too easily. But he* admits to putting a scientific spin on the *Old Testament* text: "Two are better than one, because they have good reward for their labour."

● *John Gottman speaks at the One to One conference on Wednesday, December 3 (0171-831 5261). His book,* Why Marriages Succeed or Fail *(£9.99), is published by Bloomsbury this week.*

The Woody Allen theory

One couple's verdict on Gottman:

'He helped us laugh at ourselves'

Shelley and Jonathan Bloom booked in for John Gottman's first Seattle workshop in 1996. Jonathan, 47, is a health administrator and Shelley, 42, works in community education. They have been married for 12 years and have two children.

"Our marriage wasn't terrible at that particular time, because we'd settled down and come to accept things in *each other,*" says Shelley. "But there were still some *resentments. We'd had our* rockiest time in the first three years of marriage.

"Jonathan had unresolved problems from his first marriage, and I couldn't understand why everything wasn't blissful when I'd found the love of my life."

Shelley and Jonathan were surprised by the diversity of couples they met at Gottman's workshop: "Some were engaged, and some were actually divorced but hoping to get back together. But although there were so many of us, the whole weekend was structured around privacy and there was plenty of room, physically, to find it.

"There was no uncomfortable group disclosure. John and his wife Julie would explain an exercise and we'd then go off and do it in pairs.

"It was great to realise from his statistics that we *were not the only ones* having problems — that it was *quite normal; in fact, to be* expected — that you'd feel *lonely at times in a marriage* and divided by completely different *private* thoughts about an issue."

(Gottman, for instance, uses a scene from the Woody Allen movie, *Annie Hall*, to *highlight a classic disagreement* about sex. When *Annie's therapist asks* her how often she and Alvie sleep together, she says, "Constantly. Three times a week." Alvie's view is, "Never. Three times a week.")

Gottman, say the Blooms, "helps us to laugh at ourselves and our situation. He'd say, 'Have you ever ...?' and we'd find ourselves nodding and recognising 'yes, that sounds *just* like us'."

"The big emphasis on day one," says Shelley, "was on building *fondness and admiration.* In one exercise, *Jonathan had to choose five* words from a long checklist *of positives that he thought* best described me. I guess some really embattled couples struggled over that. It brought me to tears, because Jonathan didn't normally give me compliments. I can still remember that he picked out 'strong, beautiful, sensi*tive, caring and intelligent*'."

On the second day, the Blooms were invited to look at the main issue in their relationship. "We were each given time to talk without the other one interrupting. Jonathan was only to tell me what he'd heard, show interest and ask more questions.

"It may not sound major, but for me, one sore issue was the use of TV. I hate TV, and I didn't like Jonathan having it on every evening so that it killed conversation *and the kids relied on it.* If I went to turn it off or *impatiently pushed the mute* button, it caused a lot of *tension. I'd never liked to* push it too far because it *seemed such a flashpoint.*

"But it felt safe in the *workshop. I was able to let go* of some resentment and just having Jonathan listen was in itself a help. He said he understood and would try very hard."

The Blooms say that they felt "reconnected and therefore physically more affect*ionate*" *after their weekend.* "We weren't all of a sudden rocking round town kissing," they say. "But in a less dramatic way, we felt there was more trust and that emotionally, we'd found a deeper level. It hasn't worn off: in fact, we continue to see very slight, subtle changes."

EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

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Times readers are invited to join this two-*night* Scandinavian Seaways city cruise, choosing between Hamburg or Amsterdam, *from only £49 per person. From the moment* you step on board you will experience the best traditions of sailing, ensuring your cruise is as relaxing and enjoyable as possible. Restaurants range from à la carte to the smorgasbord: other facilities include a nightclub, bars and cinema.

Readers sail overnight from Harwich to Hamburg, or from Newcastle to Amsterdam (Ijmuiden), where there will be a guided sightseeing tour before returning on an overnight crossing to the UK. The tour of *Hamburg contrasts the infamous street, the* Reeperbahn, with the elegant houses built around Hamburg's beautiful Alster lakes. Amsterdam is a city built on 160 canals with more than 1,000 bridges. It is a lively cosmopolitan city with many galleries, shops, restaurants and pavement cafes.

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CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الأهل

Josa Young

reports on how today's foundlings have coped with being abandoned at birth

This baby girl was left outside a newsagent's last May. Her mother has not been traced; she will be adopted

'She will never know where her baby is now'

Henry Fielding's famous foundling from *The History of Tom Jones*, played by Max Beesley on BBC1

Most of us date our lives from the day we were born. But for a tiny minority, life begins when they are found in a bus shelter or a telephone box. These children are known as foundlings, a label attached to abandoned babies that has not changed since Henry Fielding wrote his novel *The History of Tom Jones — a Foundling*, in the mid-18th century.

Tomorrow the concluding episode to the BBC dramatisation of the novel will be shown and although I am not going to spoil the ending for you, suffice it to say that unlike most foundlings, Tom does find out who his mother is.

For Sandra Webster, there has been *no* happy ending. She was found on a dark, chilly evening by the editor of a now-defunct newspaper behind *his* office in King's Cross. It was 6.30pm on November 8, 1955. She was about three weeks old. Years later, the editor's daughter wrote to tell her she was healthy when found and to tell her the exact circumstances of her discovery — but Sandra will not divulge this. She says: "I can't say what I was wrapped in. I need to keep something back, just in case someone comes forward."

Originally called Elizabeth Gray — after the Queen and the nearest road to which she was found, as is the custom — her name was changed to Sandra when she was adopted. She grew up, became a nurse and married. All went well until the birth of a daughter sparked off post-natal depression. Her condition was provoked, she believes, by unresolved feelings about being abandoned.

Since then she has counselled more than 60 fellow foundlings through the National Organisation for Counselling of Adoptees and Parents (Norcap), which runs a foundling sub-group. "You think you are the only one," she says. "It helps to know there are others."

In England and Wales since 1977, babies in this category have been registered separately on the Abandoned Children's Register after six months to a year of police inquiries.

The numbers vary wildly; in the first year there were five. They hovered in single figures until 1983, when they shot up to 16. They rose during the recession of the late 1980s, with a record 18 in 1989. There are slightly more girls found than boys, although whether this is because girls are tougher at birth and more likely to survive exposure is not known.

Little Catherine Nightingale is set to be the first to be registered this year. At 5.40am on May 15, an Edmonton newsagent opened his door to bring in the papers. On the step was a holdall containing a very small newborn baby-girl wrapped in a tea towel and T-shirt. The newspaper delivery men said she had not been there an hour earlier, when they dropped the papers. Some desperate girl chose her moment — she knew that newsagents open early. "We all think she was left to be found," says her case worker Mary Cook.

Sandra confirms that few babies are found in "negative circumstances" — in other words, they are rarely left to die. Catherine's mother must have been very young because the baby weighed only 4lb in spite of being healthy and full-term. The police handed the baby over to the out-of-hours social worker, who named her Catherine after her first foster mother and Nightingale after a nearby street.

The police carried out an exhaustive investigation but nobody came forward, so she will be adopted.

> 'They are nearly always left where they will be found'

In North London last year there was a less typical case. A young woman admitted herself to the labour ward of North Middlesex hospital and gave birth. She spoke no English and while staff were trying to find an interpreter, she vanished, leaving her baby girl behind.

It is difficult to understand in this liberal age, where illegitimacy and single parenthood carry no stigma, why any woman would abandon her baby. "At least I can comfort myself that the social climate at the time made single parenthood impossible," says Sandra Webster.

Today most adoptees can trace their birth parents, although some choose not to. Andy McNab, author of the SAS bestseller *Bravo Two Zero*, has no desire to trace the woman who abandoned him in November 1959 in a Harrods carrier bag on the steps of Guy's Hospital in London. "The couple who adopted me did a great job and I never felt the impulse to look for anyone else. As far as I'm concerned, they are my parents."

Reunions between adoptees and their famous parents, however, do pop up regularly in the papers: Clare Short and Joni Mitchell recently fulfilled two adoptees' fantasies about having celebrity parents. "I feel I am a jigsaw," said one adoptee trying to find his parents. "All my pieces are there, but the ones at the bottom are blank."

But for the foundling there is no trace — the blank cannot be filled. The National Contact Register will not list them because their cases are considered closed.

"You know nothing about yourself or your family," says Sandra. "For instance, my husband is average height but my elder son is already over six feet tall with size 13 feet. Where does that come from?"

Dr Malcolm Smith, a Durham University anthropologist, has studied child abandonment throughout history. He concluded that it was a haphazard business in Britain, but became a form of family planning elsewhere — a system that originated in 14th-century Italy. Dr Smith says: "Every town in southern Europe had its foundling hospital. The hospital had a revolving cradle — rather like the night safe in a bank — into which you popped your unwanted baby before pushing it into the wall, knowing that rudimentary care lay within — although mortality rates were high, in some places 100 per cent.

"Jean-Jacques Rousseau, the 18th-century philosopher, abandoned his five illegitimate children in this way. If you made a premarital mistake in those days in a Catholic county, it might render you unfit to wed. Without the baby, you would be a better prospect."

Sandra says: "A lot of our sorrow isn't for us. It is for the women desperate enough to leave us. They have had to live their whole lives with the guilt, and they will never know what happened to their child."

● *Norcap (National Organisation for Counselling of Adoptees and Parents), 112 Church Road, Wheatley, Oxfordshire X33 1LU.*

CELEBRITIES WHO **MADE IT ON THEIR OWN**

Moses was left in a basket among the bullrushes

SAS author Andy McNab: left on the steps of Guy's Hospital

Novelist Harold Robbins: abandoned at eight days

Edith Piaf: abandoned by her mother when she was two

Designer Bruce Oldfield: placed in a Barnardo's home

Grand National for gadgeteers

Inventors may be zany, but some are also wealthy, says **James Rampton**

The nightmare-prevention mattress, the inflatable chamber pot, the faecal-collecting walking stick. They all sound like spoof ads from *Private Eye*. But the biggest laugh is that they are genuine. Not only that, someone has gone to the trouble of registering them with the Patent Office in London.

All these hare-brained schemes are featured in *Great British Inventions*, edited by Mark Tanner. "When it comes to ingenuity, Britain still rules the waves," he says.

Figures from the Japanese trade ministry show that since the Second World War more than 50 per cent of worldwide patents have emanated from the UK, against 25 per cent from the United States and 5 per cent from Japan.

Who else but a Brit would have dreamt up a cereal bowl that stops your cornflakes becoming too soggy, or the combination backpack, campbed and frame tent? Indeed, 200 British inventors are gathering this weekend at the Barbican for the London International Inventors Fair, with inventions ranging from hand-free hairdryers to folding wheelbarrows.

David Wardell, the editor of *Inventors World* magazine, reckons that this British peculiarity is because "we're imaginative. It's something about being an island race. We don't just sit around, we get on with things. There's also a romance attatched to it."

Iain Andrew, a part-time actor in the Scottish television soap *High Road* and a full-time inventor, has devised such innovations as the extendable bath. "I lived in a flat in Glasgow which had only a shower," he says. "I thought there was enough room for a bath in there, but it would need to slide back. So I made a model of one and approached the Patent Office. Necessity was the mother of invention."

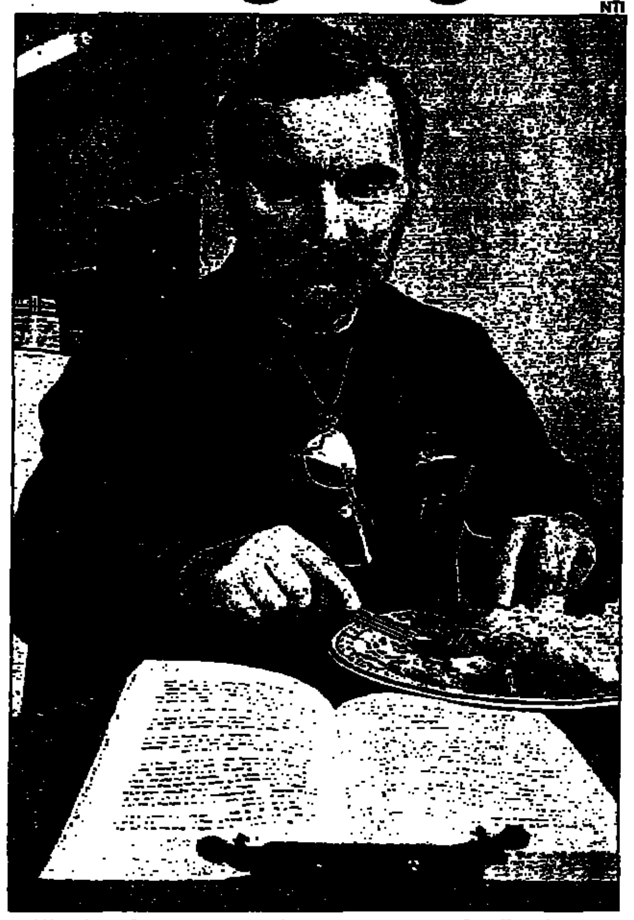
He went on to dream up the slightly less practical concept of a portable mirror-ball. "I went to a U2 concert, where they had a 40ft-wide mirror ball, and I thought, 'I'd like one of those'. So I went home, got out my soldering-iron and linked 150 CDs together with paper clips. My mirror ball is 6ft in diameter and it collapses for storage into a shoe box. I'm thinking of patenting it."

Mr Andrew is typical of the Great British Inventor: dogged, imaginative and just the right side of barking. He puts our affinity for innovations down to another constant of British life: the poor climate.

"Historically, we have a hell of a high invention ratio," he says, "and it's probably to do with our inclement weather. If you're indoors for 18 hours a day in, say, Lewis in the Outer Hebrides, then you've got a lot of time to think of ways to get out. We're all mad."

A quick glance at the history of inventing bears that out. "My favourite is a patent from the 1960s for a birthing table," Mr Wardell says. "The unfortunate mother in labour is strapped to the table, and the doctor pulls a lever to make it revolve. The idea is that the centrifugal force helps deliver the baby. There is even a net provided to catch the child."

Mr Wardell also comes up with "a hat with a gun attached, invented in Britain by a Mr. Pratt at the turn of the century. When the prototype was tested, the unfortunate guinea pig had his neck broken by the recoil and died. But the inventor still went ahead and patented it. It's that indomitable British spirit."



NTI

Still scheming: Spectangle inventor Douglas Buchanan

Mr Wardell defends the reputation of inventors. Their image has suffered because "it's easier to have a laugh at something. But there are hundreds of amateur inventors out there and they're not all nutters.

"The main quality they need is tenacity. For example, Christopher Cockerell went around with a coffee-can soldered on to the end of a hairdryer to demonstrate his idea for the hovercraft. He was laughed at, but the rest is history."

Inventing can also be seen as the creative equivalent of winning the lottery. Douglas Buchanan is hoping for that kind of success with the inventions coming out of his Shropshire workshop. He is responsible for such devices as the Spectangle (a contraption for hanging glasses around your neck) and the Bookminda which, when you are dining alone, "fights the paperback you want to read, tames it and holds it flat, allowing you to use your knife and fork".

HOW TO BE AN INVENTOR

- **Don't tell anyone about your brilliant idea — not even your family.**
- **Prove that no one else has had the same idea.**
- **Register your invention with an explanatory drawing at the Patent Office. This will cost £25. At this stage you might consider employing a patent agent who will draft you a watertight application. But that could set you back by as much as £2,000.**
- **A year later, for another £130, the Patent Office publishes your idea.**
- **Once the Office is satisfied it is original, for a further £130 you are issued with a full patent.**
- **This will still only apply in the UK. You need to register with overseas Patent Offices individually. Cost is about £2,000 per country. A worldwide patent costs about £140,000.**

Mr Buchanan admits that the most unlikely concepts can succeed. "Someone came to me with a little revolving electric motor on a lolly stick so the child doesn't have to lick the lolly. I'd automatically say 'next'. But the guy who invented it is now a millionaire living in Hawaii. He sells them for $1 each, and they cost 10 cents to produce."

Perhaps we should all buy shares in the nightmare-prevention mattress.

● Great British Inventions, *edited by Mark Tanner (Fourth Estate, £5.99).*

● *The London International Inventions Fair continues this weekend at the Barbican. Present this copy of* The Times *at the door and pay only £4 for a £12 ticket.*

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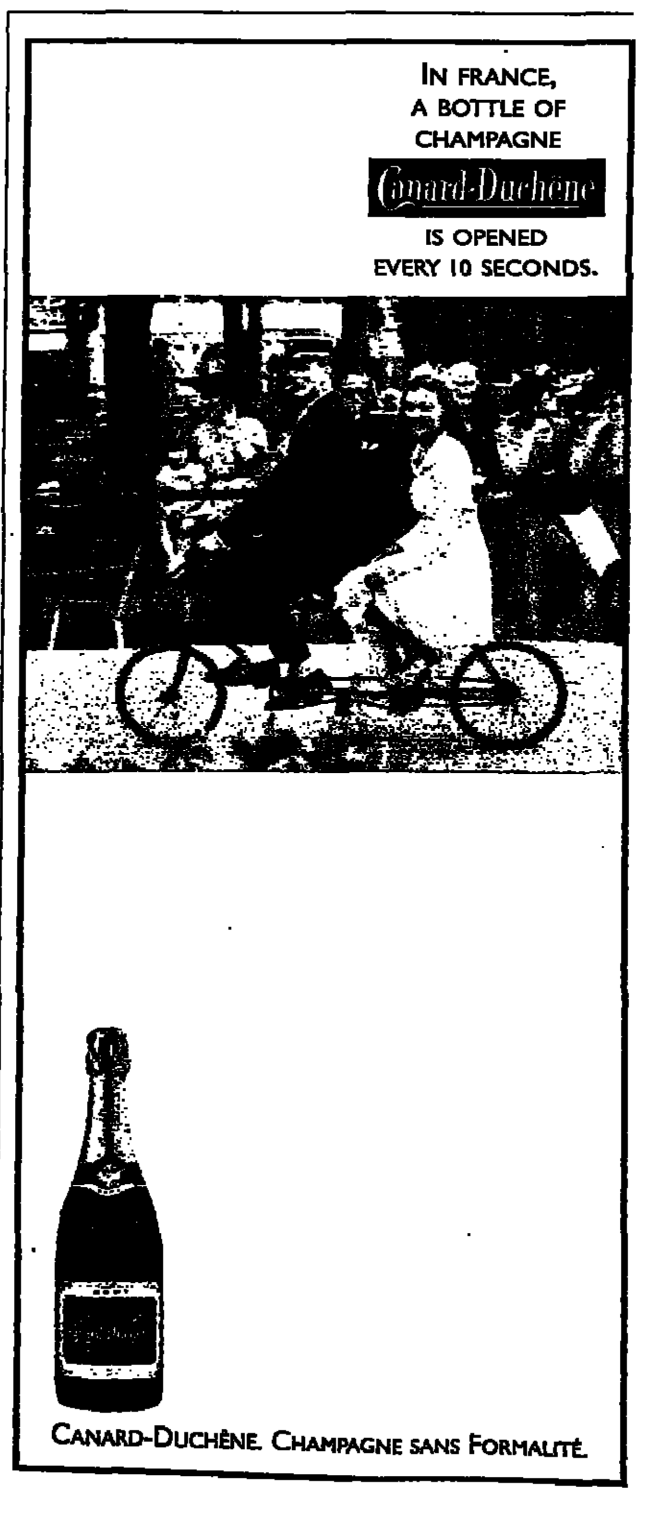

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The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Tom Whitelaw, of Bearsden in Scotland

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MAIDA VALE, W9. 2 dble bed conversion nr Maida Vale tube. £139,950. 0171 286 3629

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GRAHAM TERR SW1 Newly refurb period hse with pretty gdn, recp, din, 2/3 beds, 2 baths, kit, utility. £595,000 F/H. Best Gapp 0171 730 9253.

JERALD RD, SW1. Family house, recep, dining, kitch/bfast rm, study, 6 beds, 3 bath, shwr rm, cloakrm, gdn, terrace. Lse to 2040. £725,000. Best Gapp. 0171 730 9253

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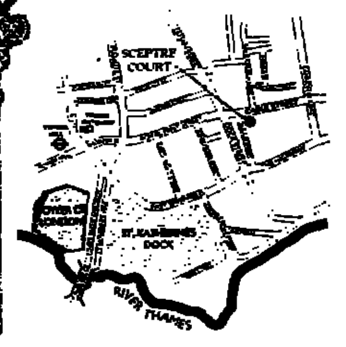

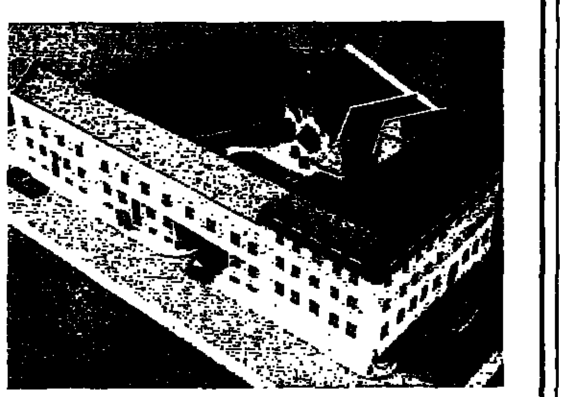

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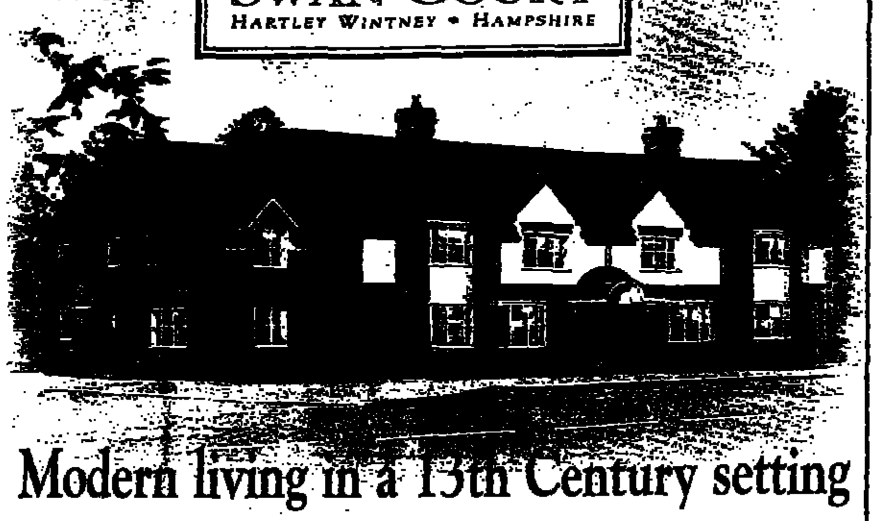

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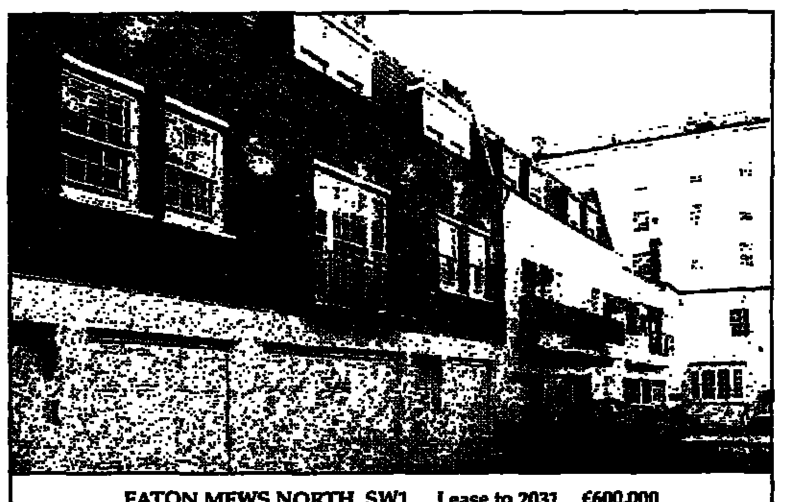

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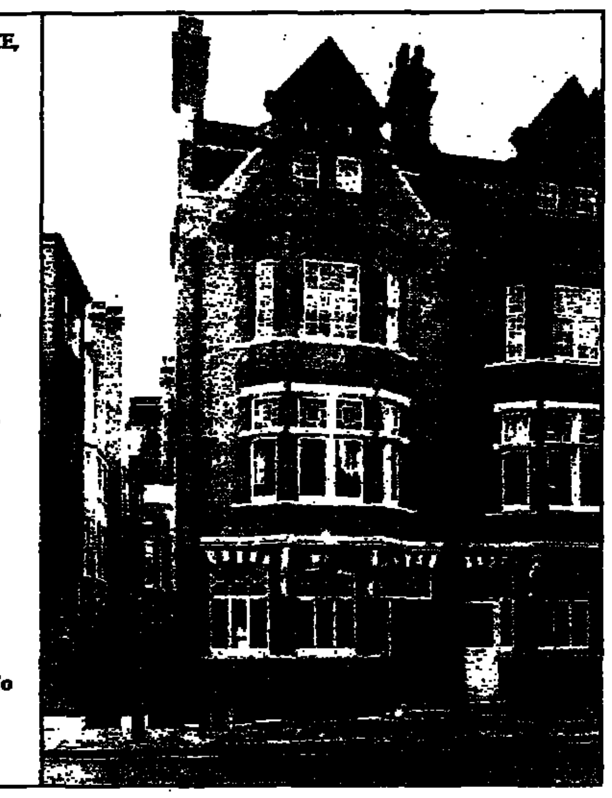

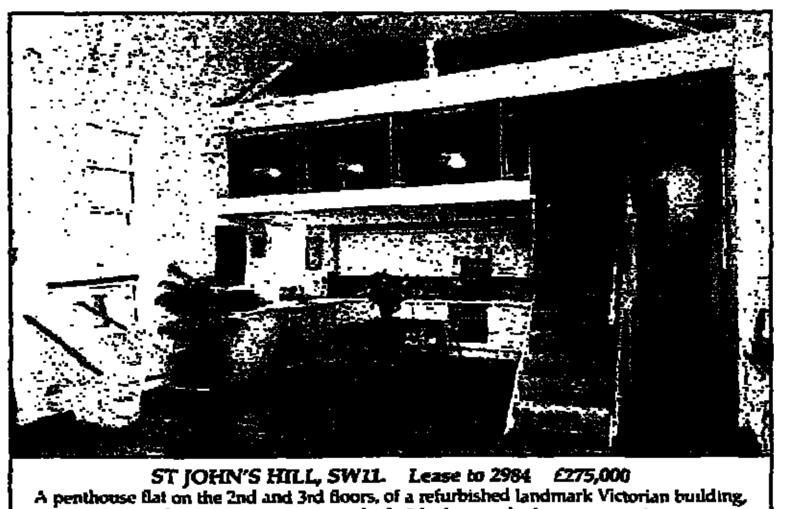

ST JOHN'S HILL, SW11. Lease to 2984 £275,000
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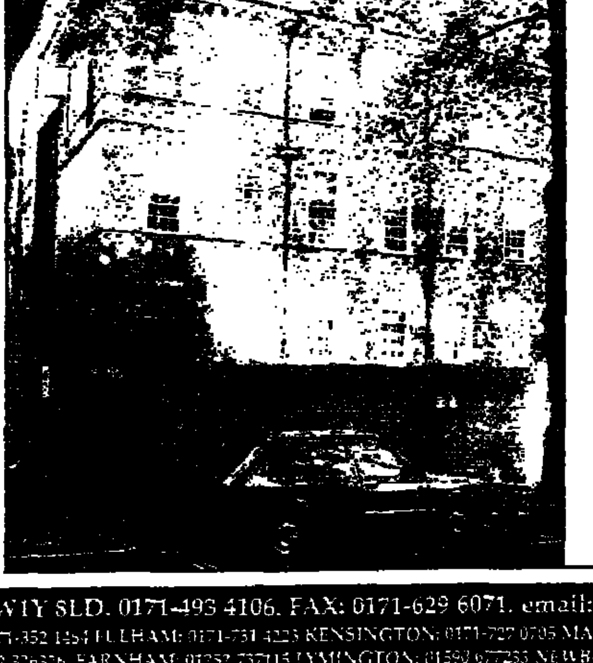

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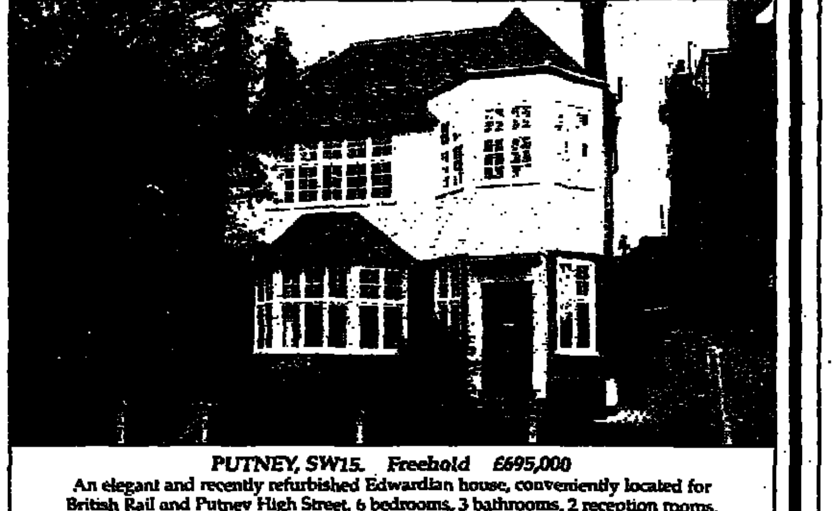

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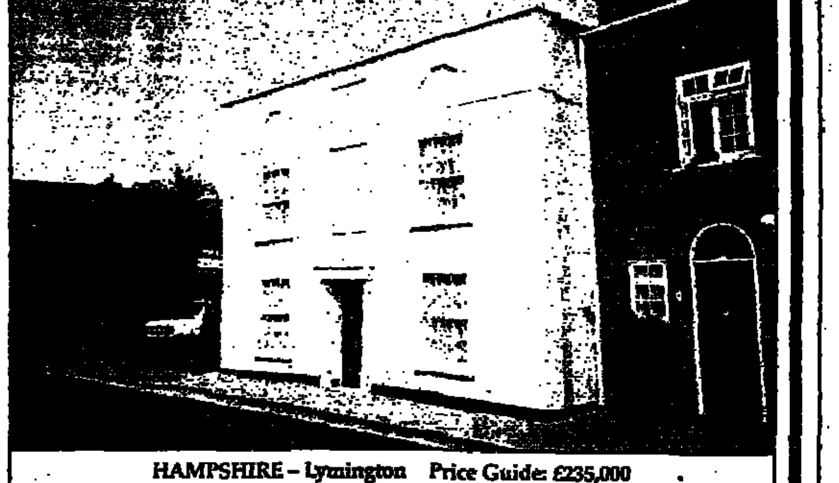

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A little polish for the family jewels

Knebworth House, national treasure and superior rock festival site

Some of England's finest stately homes could be saved with fresh Government funding. Rachel Kelly reports

NORTH NEWS & PICTURES

Philip Howard, with wife Elizabeth and children William and Sandra, needs help with the upkeep of Naworth Castle in Cumbria

Owners of some of England's finest historic houses, parks and gardens have a spring in their step even with the approach of midwinter. This month, they heard Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, sing their praises — in return, they gave him a standing ovation.

Private owners were the best guardians of historic stately homes, Mr Smith said at the AGM of the Historic Houses Association. "So we must make it possible for two-thirds of the nation's built heritage to remain in secure private ownership."

For once, this is not mere rhetoric. Thanks to the National Lottery, the Government has a bit of extra cash for hard-pressed aristocrats. Through English Heritage, it is to provide about £3 million to give owners of more modest historic properties "rapid assistance".

As Mr Smith said: "I welcome the 'stitch-in-time' principle, under which early work to secure the weatherproofing of a building can save more extensive repairs later."

Labour has been surprisingly supportive of stately homeowners in Government. As Giles Worsley, deputy director of the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture, points out: "Despite occasional threats of punative taxation, the country house has done remarkably well under Labour."

English Heritage has the extra funds because it will no longer be funding the conservation area partnership schemes, which helped historic areas in financial need. In future, this is to be funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Stately homeowners themselves will be eligible for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund under the National Heritage Act 1997, expected to be in force by the end of the year. A flood of applications is expected, but historic homeowners must first prove that there is a clear public as well as heritage benefit from any repairs.

The Historic Houses Association (HHA) estimates that it needs £130 million of Government funding for major repairs to the fabric of its buildings. The association represents 1,400 historic homeowners, including Lord Cobbold, who owns Knebworth near Stevenage in Hertfordshire, and Lord Bath, who owns Longleat in Wiltshire.

A new HHA survey shows that 45 million people visit its properties each year — 250,000, for instance, crammed themselves into Knebworth over two days in the summer of 1996 to see Oasis perform. And nearly half a million visited the Safari Park at Knowsley Hall in Merseyside last year.

Richard Wilkin, HHA director-general, says: "The houses are central to Britain's biggest industry — tourism. Forty-six per cent of foreigners who visit come to see our heritage. The Government should recognise our contribution to tourism by helping with costs for re-roofing and stonework, for example, which are impossible for most homeowners to meet on their own."

In its latest survey, the HHA estimates that there are 500 houses which are eligible for Government funding because they are open to the public. Each house needs an average of £150,000 spent on repairs.

Mr Wilkin says: "However well-endowed these estates are, very few owners can afford these repairs."

Philip Howard and his wife Elizabeth are among those who could benefit from the Government's new largesse. They live in Naworth Castle, near Carlisle in Cumbria, a romantic border fortress dating back to 1335.

Mr Howard runs a corporate entertaining business at the house and caters for about 35 weddings each year. Naworth was also used as Mr Rochester's home, Thornfield, in LWT's adaptation of *Jane Eyre*, broadcast this year. But Mr Howard still faces an annual maintenance bill of £150,000 to keep the 14th-century house going.

The income from his various successful business enterprises means that Mr Howard will roughly break-even this year on the cost of running the house. But the house, which attracts about 15,000 visitors each year, still needs about £1 million worth of outstanding repairs.

"The roofs have had it," he says. "One entire wing is full of dry rot, and we need to upgrade our wiring. If this work was done to the standard approved of by English Heritage, the cost would be around £1 million."

Since taking over the property in 1994, Mr Howard has yet to receive a grant to help to pay for repairs. "Of course we could just sell up," Mr Howard says. But he points out that if he did, the contents of the house would be separated from their historic home. The 100ft great hall has a Gobelin tapestry, and there are other family possessions.

As Mr Wilkin, from the HHA, says: "What is special about these houses is that they have been in the same family for generations, and they have that family's possessions."

Stately homeowners are currently eligible for £5 million a year of grants from English Heritage, and its Scottish and Welsh equivalents. They received £38,000 this year through the Heritage Lottery Fund, but only 20 houses are currently eligible for lottery money because they are charitable trusts.

Such historic houses are also eligible for small local authority grants and funds from the European Union's Raphael programme. They also enjoy tax breaks, chiefly conditional exemption deferring the payment of inheritance tax if they are open to the public.

It is too early to say how much fresh funds will flow to our country's finest houses — or when that money might become available. A spokesman from English Heritage says that spending for next year has yet to be agreed.

The Heritage Lottery Fund's contribution is also unknown — but at least the signs are promising.

SMART MOVES

■ VISCOUNT Linley is selling Ebury Lodge, in Belgravia, London SW1 for £3.65 million through Savills. The lodge was designed by David Rosemont for the Viscount, but he and his wife Serena never lived there, instead preferring a loft apartment in Battersea.

David Bowie

■ THEY ARE playing musical houses on the Caribbean island of Mustique, famed as the former home of Princess Margaret. David Bowie has sold his modern, Japanese-style house to Felix Denis from Denis Publishing, publisher of *Kung-fu* and computer magazines.

Caroline Charles

■ DRESS designer Caroline Charles is selling her Faccombe, Hampshire, cottage for £275,000 through Knight Frank.

■ THE former London home of Christina Onassis is for sale at £925,000 through Foxtons. The Mayfair flat was her private London home until her death in 1988.

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The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Tom Whitelaw, of Bearsden in Scotland

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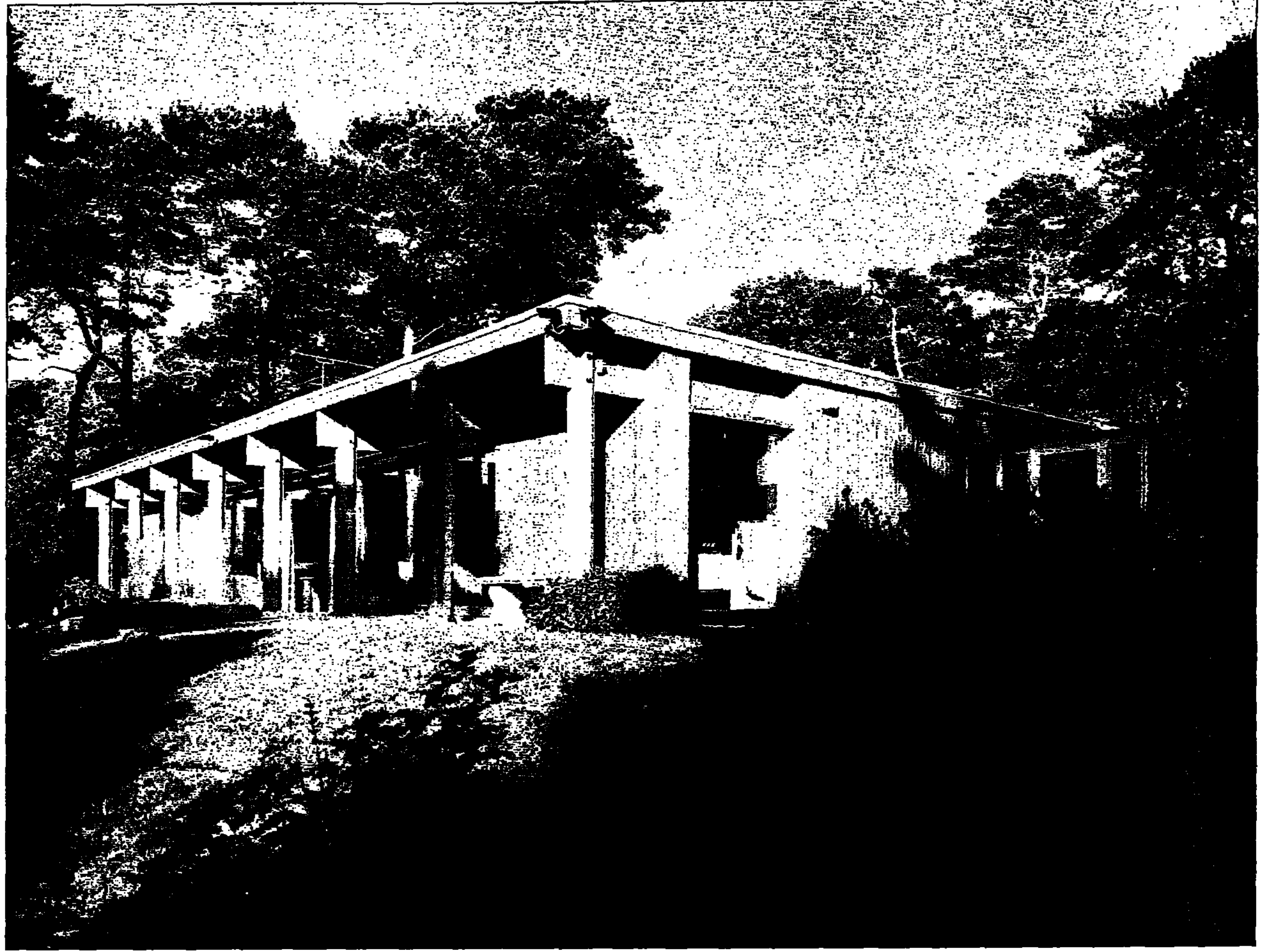
The open-plan living area is set out on different levels

The house of Bond's villain

Erno Goldfinger, left, whose ideas enraged Ian Fleming



Teesdale, in Sunningdale, Surrey, was designed by Erno Goldfinger and is considered a prime example of modernist architecture. The house is on the market for £1.3 million

Marcus Binney ventures into the modern world of Erno Goldfinger's Teesdale

Not many houses in leafy Sunningdale, Surrey, can claim to have been designed by a Goliath of crime, but Teesdale wins the accolade. Its architect, the modernist Erno Goldfinger, so enraged Ian Fleming that he named one of his best-known villains after him — "Mr Bond ... if Mr Goldfinger wished to crush you, he would only have to turn over in his sleep."

The cause of their quarrel lay in Goldfinger's plans to rip down a row of Victorian houses overlooking Hampstead Heath and build flat-roofed council houses. This was the late 1930s. Later, Goldfinger became notorious as his tower blocks and Elephant and Castle offices came to symbolise all that was despised about Sixties brutalism.

Now Goldfinger is back in vogue, and his house in Willow Road has been acquired by the National Trust as a prime example of early Modernism. Teesdale, built in 1967, is set back from a tree-lined road south of Ascot, where houses stand in spacious grounds secluded by shrubs or metal gates that bar even a passing glimpse. What was once stockbroker Tudor is now sheikh alley.

Teesdale has one of the best positions of all, a hilltop site approached by a helter-skelter drive, winding steeply up through woodland. It looks as natural as can be, but Goldfinger worked hard on the drive and the hilltop platform to achieve a perfect position for the house. His client, Jack Perry, was hailed as a pioneer of Anglo-Chinese trade in a handsome obituary in *The Times* on January 2 this year. Like many people from the East End of London, Perry went into the rag trade, but his life took a new direction when he struck up links with the Chinese at a Moscow conference in 1952.

Over the next 40 years, he made more than 70 visits to China, and eventually became a visiting professor in Beijing, spending long periods lecturing Chinese students.

With a determined client and architect, the house had a difficult gestation and went through several designs. But Goldfinger was proud of it in the end and his widow thought it was his best house.

Like early Mies van der Rohe houses, the composition is long, rectangular and low, with scarcely a window on the entrance side. The difference is that the composition is gently askew, like a railway train going round a bend.

There is an American-style carport and stylishly zigzagging steps which lead up to the glass front door. The house appears to be made entirely from wood but it has a brick frame. It uses the post-and-beam construction beloved of modernists for its simplicity.

A row of cruciform wooden columns along the garden front support "glu-lam" beams (glued and laminated) which rest on a solid wall at the other end. The outside is faced with cedar and the inside with cedar veneer. The roof is made of 2in timbers, tongued and grooved and covered with proprietary roofing.

The architect James Dunnett, who worked with Goldfinger, says: "His houses are built to a system of proportions. Every measurement was a multiple of 11 inches, here giving an 8ft 3in distance between columns." The main part of the house is open-plan, with just a few steps up to the dining area. "All his houses have these slight changes of level. It was a feature he took from the Viennese architect Adolf Loos," Mr Dunnett says.

The lushly-planted conservatory leads to the bedrooms. The cedar-lined walls give the house a Japanese feel

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Modernists like their clients to enjoy perfect communion with nature. Goldfinger achieves this with huge floor-to-ceiling windows which slide back into the walls, turning living and dining areas into a virtual open-air terrace. Goldfinger chose his fittings well. The huge aluminium picture windows glide with ease after an initial pull, and the tilt-out top windows, operated by a chain mechanism, work as easily as car windows. Even a screen which Rose Marlin, the present owner, said she had not moved since introducing a grand piano, glided effortlessly when I pulled it free of a concealed magnetic strip.

Goldfinger oriented the house exactly to the west to provide stunning hilltop views of the sunset — you look out, Cézanne-style, through the tops of trees, with magnificent pines and copper beeches providing glorious autumn colour. Underfloor heating and convectors keep the house pleasantly warm. "The bills are about £300 a quarter and £700 in midwinter," Mrs Marlin says.

The four bedrooms are in a separate block, approached through a lushly planted conservatory. "Most conservatories are tucked away in extensions, but here you're walking through it all the time," Mrs Marlin says. The bedrooms open off a top-lit corridor lined with cupboards, wooden of course, which give a distinctly Japanese feel. "Goldfinger told me how he had watched the Japanese pavilion going up at the 1925 Art Deco Exhibition, each piece of wood being carefully unwrapped from crinkly paper," Mr Dunnett says.

The first bathroom serves two bedrooms, but has two basins, so a child need not feel dislodged if guests come to stay. The lavatory is in its own top-lit cubicle of sentry-box proportions. "Just like the lavatory on a private jet," says Mrs Marlin who is never short of a good selling line.

The master bedroom is the one place where the previous owners rebelled against the all-pervasive wood in favour of painted walls. In moving partitions they also exposed a column containing Goldfinger's internal rainwater pipes — he didn't want gutters interrupting the clean lines of his exterior.

The criticism can be made that this is a single-aspect house with all the main windows on one side, denying the pleasure of morning sun. But it also gives privacy as the land falls away sharply to the west. For those with dogs, there are four acres of fenced grounds down the hillside with three levels of paths.

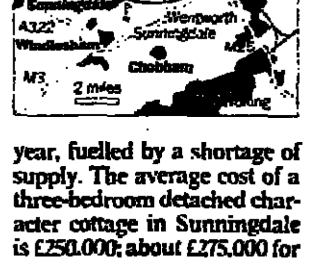
On top of the bedroom block, adding a Cubist touch, is a freestanding watertank which looks like a recipe for frozen pipes but, says Mrs Marlin, "we've never had a problem even in the coldest weather. It's a box in a box with a cavity in between."

Teesdale is a modern classic, built for people who want to be at one with nature. As I drove away at dusk, a large roe deer skipped past.

● *Agent: Kate Floyd at Foxtons (0171-616 7003).*

In 007's footsteps, pages 24-25

THE MARKET



THE AREA around Windlesham, on the Berkshire border of the Surrey stockbroker belt, is about 20 miles southwest of central London. With its string of palatial homes, it has long been fashionable with weathly London émigrés and foreign buyers looking for family homes.

They are attracted by the rustic charm of the area, with its leafy, affluent villages of Sunningdale, Ascot, Chobham and Virginia Water, by its golf courses, such as Wentworth, by its schools, and by its accessibility.

Trains to Waterloo from Ascot take 50 minutes; the M3 is on the doorstep, the M25 is a ten-minute drive away; it is 20 minutes to Heathrow and 40 minutes to Gatwick.

Although you can buy a small modern semi-detached house around Windlesham or Sunningdale for less than £120,000, the majority of homes cost a great deal more. Prices are among the highest in the Home Counties. They rose 15 per cent and more in the first six months of this year, fuelled by a shortage of supply. The average cost of a three-bedroom detached character cottage in Sunningdale is £250,000; about £275,000 for a new four-bedroom executive detached house; and £670,000 for a five-bedroom period house, according to a recent report on house prices from Hamptons International.

Demand for two-up-two-down Victorian terraced village houses, costing from £120,000 to £150,000 in Windlesham, often exceeds supply. Halifax Property Services says the market for properties under £300,000 has cooled, however, because of purchasers' worries about rising interest rates.

The smartest address in Westwood Road will set you back at least £2 million for a new five-bedroom five-bathroom house in half an acre. Windlesham's mansions (most owned by oil-rich Arab sheikhs) are still sought after by cash buyers, despite price rises of up to 30 per cent this year, says estate agent Knight Frank.

Large country houses with land are rare — move closer to Guildford if you want to buy one of these. New houses dominate the top end of the market. Expect to pay anything from £500,000 to more than £1 million for a modest five-bedroom house on half an acre, near Ascot. A six to eight-bedroom 1930s house with a pool, tennis court and an acre or two will cost £2 million or more — if you can find one for sale.

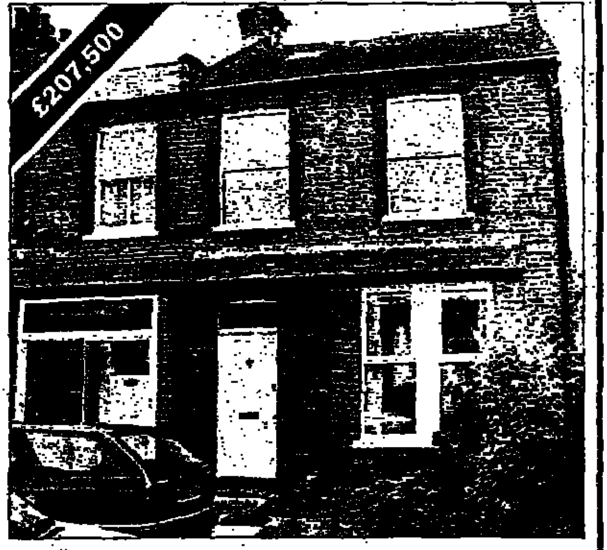
CHERYL TAYLOR

HOME SWAP

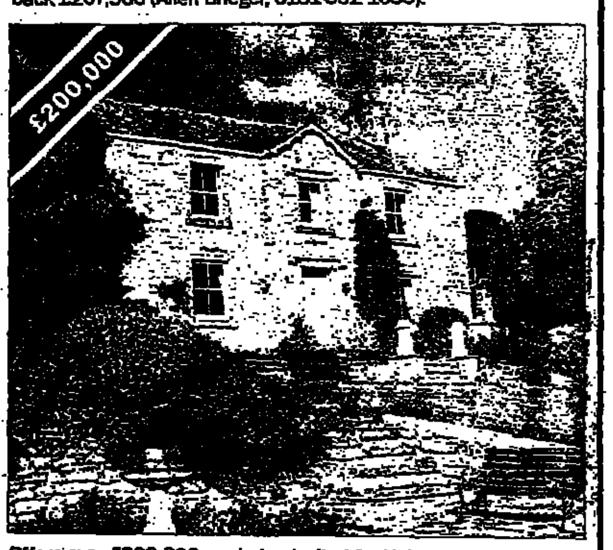
DEMAND FOR two to five-bedroom Victorian terraced houses, costing from £200,000 to £500,000, in Putney and Barnes, southwest London, pushed prices up 30 per cent in the first half of this year, according to estate agent Allen Briegel. Now there are more houses on the market, purchasers are no longer willing to pay over-the-odds and prices have stabilised.

Stone and slate cottages around the lakes of Windermere, Coniston and Grasmere are selling fast, from £70,000 to £150,000 for two bedrooms, despite price gains of 15 per cent this year. Larger period houses are also sought-after, from £300,000. Buyers are coming from Manchester and Liverpool looking for second homes. A three-bedroom house with a boat house on Lake Windermere recently sold for £760,000. Its guide price was £450,000, says estate agent Matthews Benjamin.

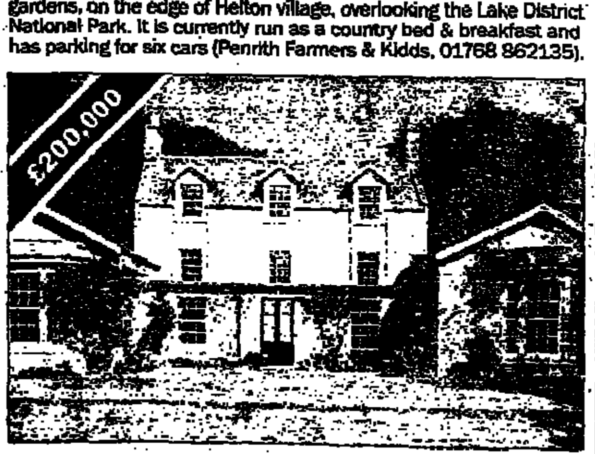
You still get a lot of house for your money in northeast Scotland. There has been no property boom there; and prices are stable, says Savills. Country houses within commuting distance of Aberdeen cost from £150,000 to £200,000 for up to five bedrooms. Georgian houses in Royal Deeside fetch from £550,000 for six bedrooms and a good area of parkland. For £650,000 you could buy a restored ten-bedroom, 17th-century castle in five acres.



This restored two-bedroom end-of-terrace Victorian house with a south-facing rear garden in The Retreat, a secluded Barnes backwater on the outskirts of "Little Chelsea", southwest London, will set you back £207,500 (Allen Briegel, 0181-392 1635).



Offers over £200,000 are being invited for Holywell House, a detached stonebuilt five-bedroom period house, in beautiful terraced gardens, on the edge of Helton village, overlooking the Lake District National Park. It is currently run as a country bed & breakfast and has parking for six cars (Penrith Farmers & Kidds, 01768 862135).



North of the Border, Drumblair Lodge, a Grade B listed 18th-century, five-bedroom country house in 3.2 acres of wooded grounds, at Forgue, by Huntley, Aberdeenshire, can be had for a similar amount. It is approached by a drive and a gateway with stone pillars and comes with stone outbuildings (Savills, 01356 622187).

CHERYL TAYLOR

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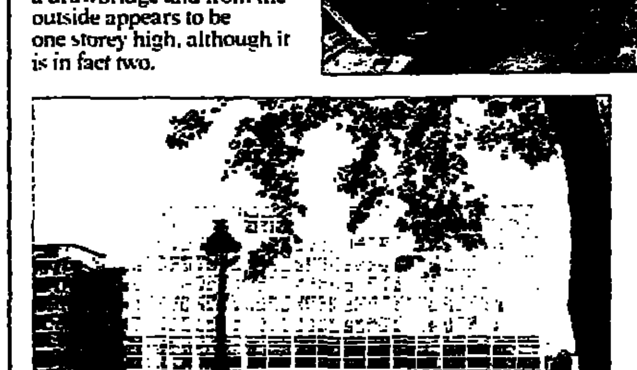
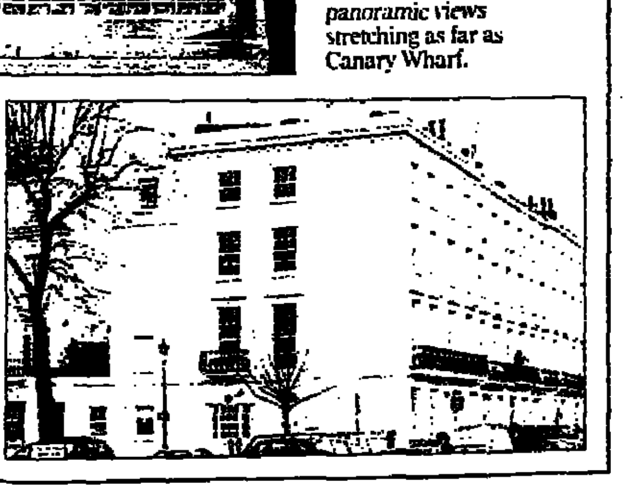
Sir Michael Hopkins, CBE, lives with his wife Patricia, in a self-designed steel and glass-constructed building in Hampstead, north London (right). The property, built in 1976, cost £30,000 for the site, and a further £20,000 to build. It can only be reached by a drawbridge and from the outside appears to be one storey high, although it is in fact two.



Sir Norman Foster lives with his wife, Elena, in a large penthouse above the offices he designed, on the banks of the River Thames in Battersea, southwest London (left). Constructed from steel and glass, the penthouse is dominated by its wide open spaces and the stunning panoramic views stretching as far as Canary Wharf.



Lord Rogers of Riverside lives with his wife Ruth, co-founder of the River Café, in a large house in Chelsea, west London (right). While the exterior is typically early Victorian, the interior is modernist. Two floors of two houses have been knocked into one, and walls have been removed to create a vast space of two storeys dominated by stainless steel.

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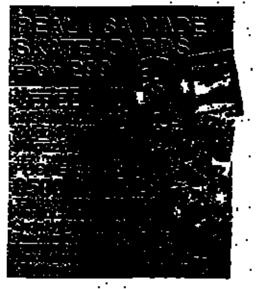

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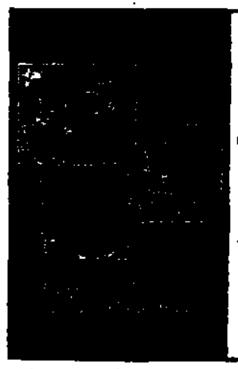

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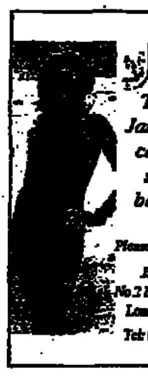

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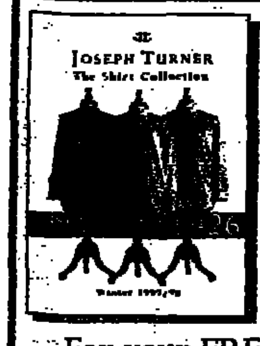

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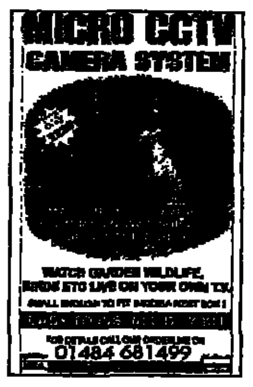

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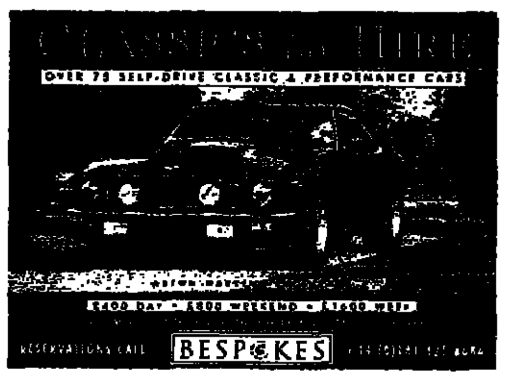

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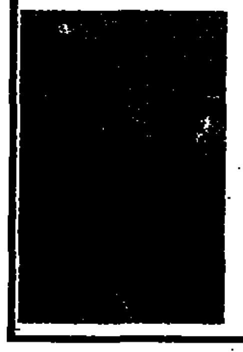

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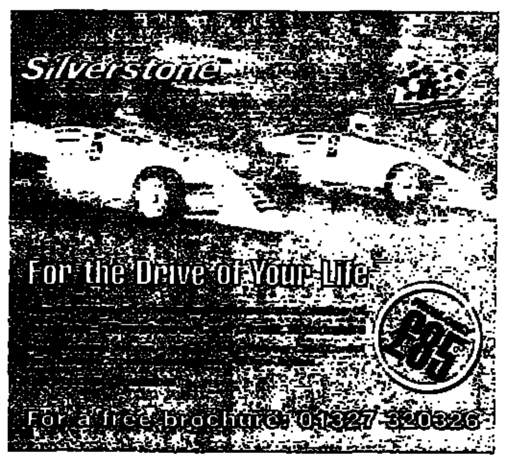

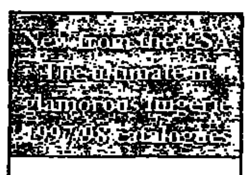

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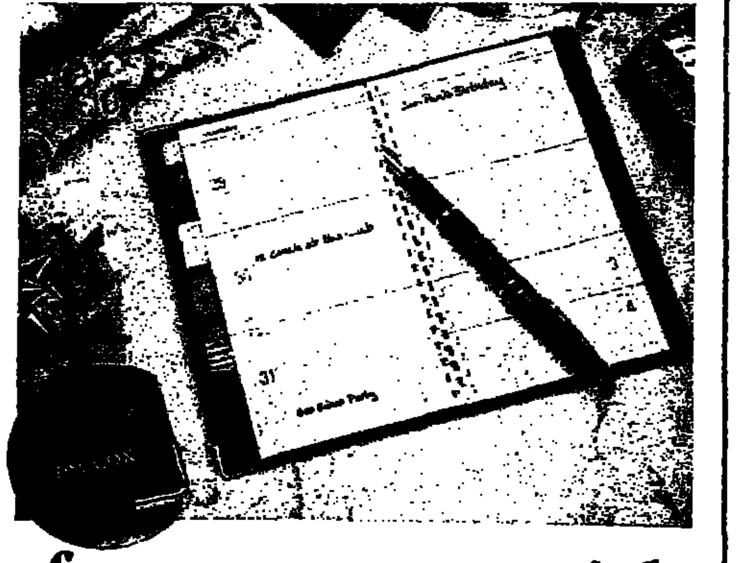

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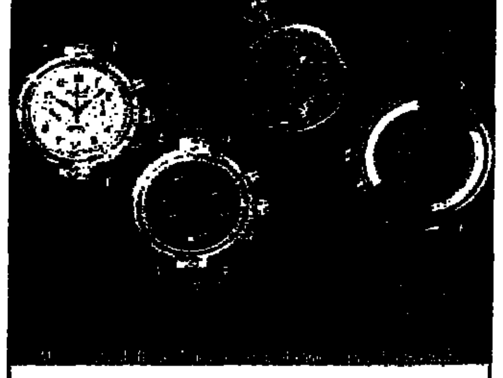

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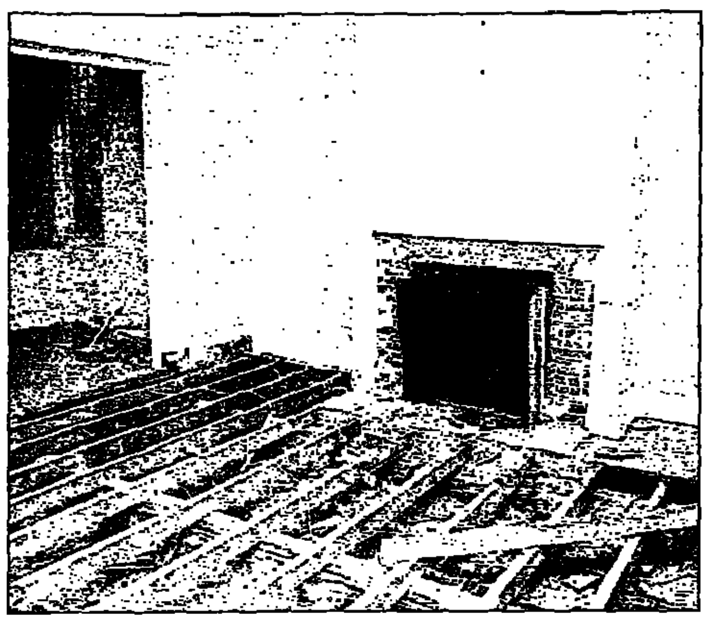


This house had its roof, floorboards and fixtures stolen

Staircases to thieves' heaven

Burglars aren't just stealing your possessions, they are taking most of the house as well. **Tom Rowland** reports

Buying second-hand clay tiles to help an extension to blend in, or old floorboards to give the freshly renovated dining room that lived-in feel may seem an innocent enough activity. But, according to building conservationalists, it is unwittingly helping to fuel a crimewave. The theft of parts of old houses has reached epidemic proportions, as a Hertfordshire property developer found to his cost recently. Thieves took floors, panelling and roof tiles from his latest purchase and left the £1 million house little more than an empty shell. Any fine old building left empty for more than a few weeks risks a similar fate.

"The problem is the ready market in almost any of the components of a good house," Matthew Slocombe, caseworker at the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), explains. So concerned has SPAB become that it now has a policy to discourage owners from re-using salvage materials in their buildings. It recommends they go for new, good-quality, handmade materials.

At Burton Park, near Petworth, Sussex, an entire Grade I listed staircase was stolen during a renovation. The magnificent Regency staircase — valued at £30,000 — disappeared one night. The lead fixings had been burnt out from the stone, the developer Mike Wilson says. The staircase did turn up in a lock-up garage in Portsmouth, but will cost £6,000 to repair and reinstate.

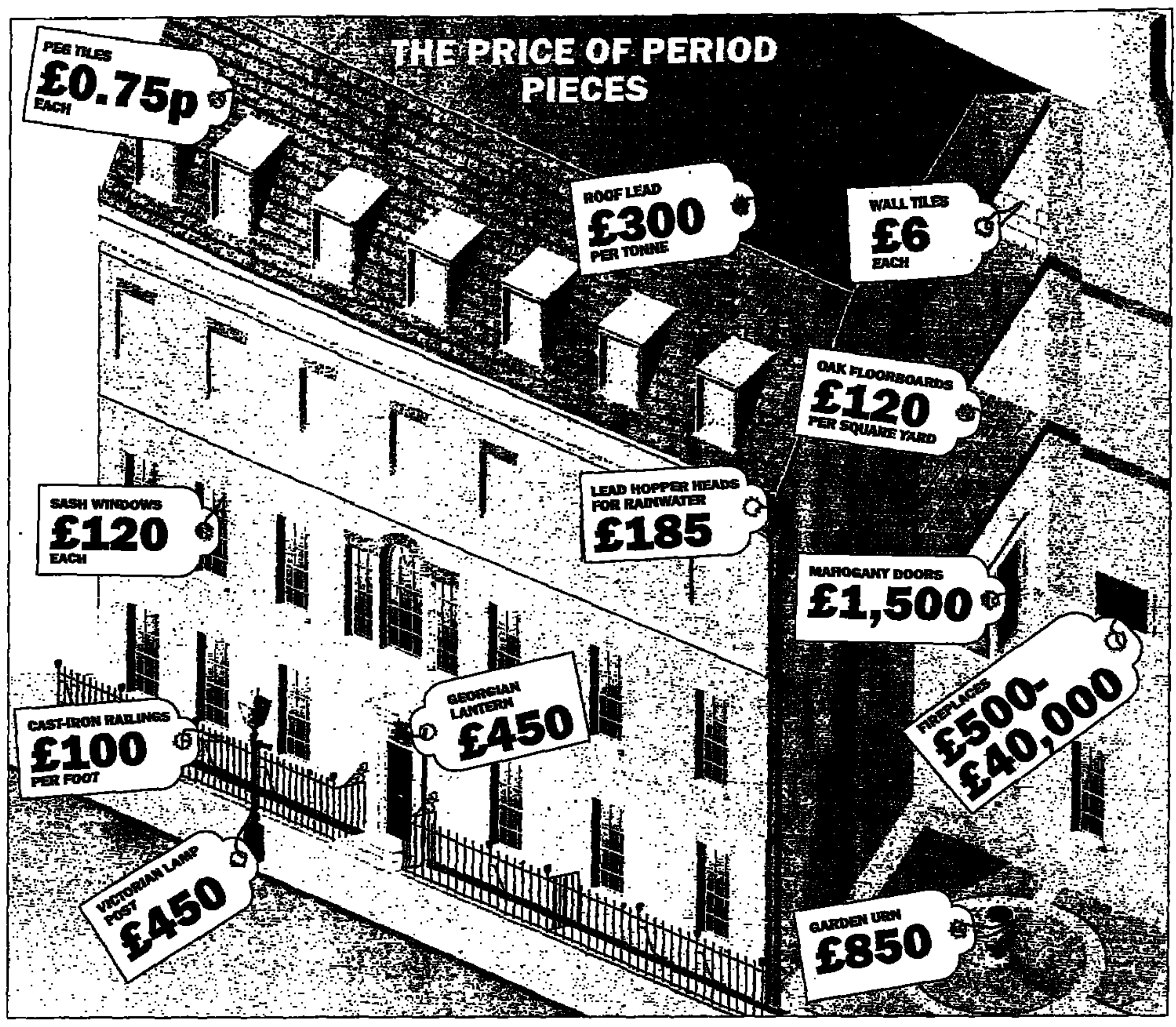
It is not only expensive staircases that go missing. In Wandsworth, south London, the 18th-century Wandsworth House has been progressively stripped of its architectural treasures over the past few months, says John Neale, caseworker for the Georgian Group.

The redundant Georgian hospital buildings in Stone, Staffordshire, have lost their roof tiles, and much of the interior is also under threat.

"Slates, stone tiles and handmade tiles are vulnerable because there is a ready market for them and they are difficult to trace," Mr Neale says.

In many cases local authority planners specify that old materials should be used as a condition of granting planning permission and owners have little choice other than to comply.

Garden statues and urns remain a favourite among thieves, although it is now easier to protect them with solid fastenings, which do not damage the fabric, and electronic alarms linked to the house security system. Victorian lampposts and old telephone boxes are among the latest items to be targeted, with old gas lamps now fetching up to £450.



Take a tip from the burglars

Just what is the best way to keep your home safe from being burgled when you're away? Advice can come from many quarters — Neighbourhood Watch schemes or locals who've had something stolen from their own homes — but rarely does it come directly from the horse's mouth: the thieves themselves.

That's why Norwich Union teamed up with Kent Police to produce a video, *Beat The Burglar.* Available through your local crime prevention officer, it features three convicted house breakers — Gary, Patrick and Paul — speaking about how they plied their trade.

As they explain, most break-ins are carried out by opportunists, keeping an eye out for the clues that can indicate a house is empty.

Making a house look as though it is occupied will put off most of these thieves. Timer switches that turn on lights in different parts of the building at night can be an effective deterrent, as can more obvious measures, such as cancelling papers and keeping a dog.

Drawing the curtains is still popular with many people, but during daylight hours it is an obvious giveaway. Modern security systems can be programmed to draw curtains and open them again in the morning.

The best protection for any house is a burglar alarm, but be warned: burglars are able to tell the difference between a good quality system and a cheap DIY pack. The latter tend to be unreliable and are frequently left turned off after a few embarrassing false alarms.

The best advice, however, is perhaps the most obvious: Patrick extolls the deterrent value of double glazing, while Paul points out that anyone can find a door key under a mat or on the top of a door frame. It may sound cynical, but you've succeeded if the housebreaker moves to the next street to take his chances.

A Suffolk village to rob for

Great Glemham, in Suffolk, is the safest village in England. That is the extravagant boast backed by Suffolk Police statistics. They show it to be a crime-free zone, with not so much as an improperly parked car reported in the year 1996-97.

The claim stands up nationally. Great Glemham has the lowest crime rate in Suffolk, which in turn has the lowest crime rate of any county. Other areas may have low figures, but an unblemished record is something to be proud of. At least, it was until a few weeks ago, when the community post office was burgled. For the past three years this was operated part-time from the village hall after the closure of the picturesque village shop, now a private house.

Nowhere is safe from the burglars, it seems, and with the peak Christmas season for house robberies about to start, 211 residents of the sleepy village between Aldeburgh and Saxmundham would be as well advised as the rest of us to take precautions.

Great Glemham also illustrates that there can be a downside to living somewhere safe: it can be awfully quiet. A trip to the pub, The Crown, to find out what the locals think about this tarnished reputation proves a failure. On the door is a notice saying that it has closed down and the new owners do not intend to re-open until after the new year. Still, the lack of rowdiness around closing time will help to minimise opportunistic break-ins.

With its period cottages and gentle lanes, Great Glemham represents for many a rural idyll. The village has 93 houses, ranging from £35,000 cottages to £350,000 farmhouses.

For sale is Stone House, a four-bedroom, timber-frame cottage with a flint Georgian front. It would appeal to both families and those looking for a weekend cottage close to transport links since the A12 is two miles away. The asking price is £325,000, a figure likely to be achieved without difficulty, according to the agent Jonathan Penn of Strutt & Parker. The figure represents a 25 per cent rise over the past five years.

That sort of price increase might mean that small villages such as Great Glemham become honeypots for thieves; often the safer they are, the more thieves are attracted to try their hand.

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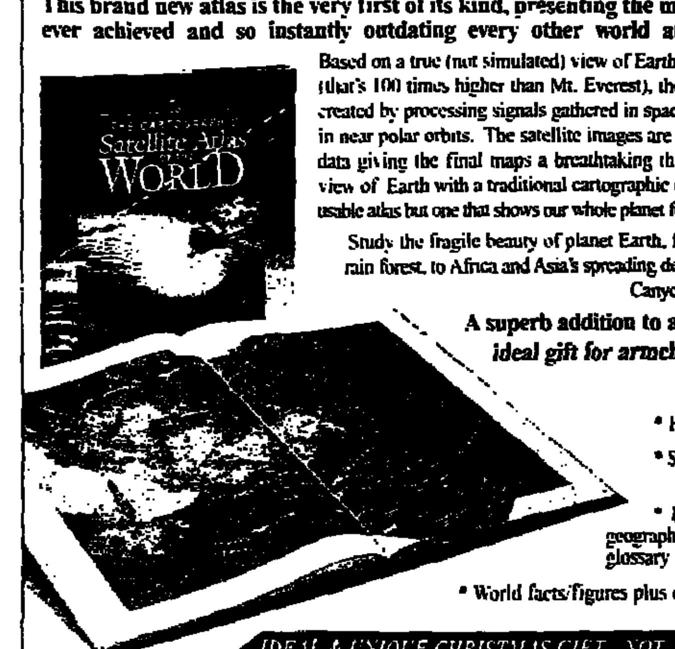

هكذا من الأهل

Sixties wonder on shaky ground

A mix of formal planting and modern sculpture makes the Gibberd garden worth saving, writes **Stephen Anderton**

Marsh Lane, the garden of the late Sir Frederick Gibberd, at Harlow, Essex, has a wonderful collection of fine architectural ornament and modern sculpture. But its future hangs by a perilously thin thread, with a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund pending.

Often when you see a picture of Marsh Lane in print, it shows a lonely architectural or sculptural detail in close-up. Why on earth do we never see the impression this garden really makes — the use of plants, the spaces, and the way they accommodate and work with the sculpture?

It is partly the fault of fashion in garden photography. Give a symmetrical formal garden to garden photographers these days and they will turn in fabulous, moody shots, all taken on the diagonal, with the elements of the picture beautifully balanced.

But that is not the garden itself. It is the garden through someone else'e eyes — a reinterpretation. The classic formal shots never appear, because editors are afraid to use them in case the image has already appeared in a dozen glossy gardening books.

This architectural image is Marsh Lane's problem. And yet it is a wonderful garden, not just for its glamorous sculptures but for its horticulture; for its planting.

It is one of the few important designer gardens of the late 20th century. But unless it gets a lottery grant, to keep it going and open it to the public, the estate will eventually go on the market as a house (not a very special house) ripe for redevelopment.

The decline of all gardens is a furious descent, and not at all the peaceful, romantic fading away which sunshine and a few wild roses would let us believe. Gardens go quickly, but quietly, as one plant eats another for breakfast.

Marsh Lane is a lovely garden. A bit woolly around the edges, perhaps, and in need of some serious pruning, but full of fascination and charm. Sir Frederick Gibberd was the architect and master planner of Harlow New Town. He was also a talented landscape designer.

The fine lines of a terracotta pot contrast with a wild woodland area

The site is his major essay in garden design. It was his all-consuming hobby between 1956 and his death in 1984. Since then it has got by with what skills and labour Lady Gibberd has been able to muster. But she is concerned that the garden's horticultural elements are fading fast.

At Marsh Lane there exists the perfect opportunity to keep a great garden of a recent period going in all its detail, while it still exists. Whatever details have slipped away could be replaced by looking through Gibberd's drawings of the garden.

But why bother to fund the preservation of a modern garden, you may ask? Well, for one thing, it is a garden of "garden rooms" and enclosed vistas, but free of the domineering plantsmanship of Sissinghurst or Hidcote. It is a fine example of a freer and more modern style. It would be an inspiration to the present generation of young gardeners.

Admittedly, the Sixties produced some cheap and nasty work, but should we throw out everything that was well-made then too? Look at the variety of modern paving techniques at Marsh Lane, look at the novel juxtaposition of clipped and unclipped evergreens, like exotic grafted cacti or the back view of peacocks.

This garden needs saving from a fate worse than total loss — from being preserved as a mere sculpture park. The garden is registered Grade II in the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, which means it is recognised for its national importance. But to let the garden linger on, without the gardening intended to complement the sculpture, would be to give modern gardening a bad name. The gardening is every bit as important as the sculpture. They need each other.

The garden deserves to survive because of all the efforts of its trustees and those who have given money to the Gibberd Garden Appeal to save it. When Sir Frederick Gibberd died, he left the garden to Harlow District Council, for the recreation and education of the people of Harlow. But the will was contested and the estate became a debtor through litigation, *à la Bleak House*.

The house and garden were saved from sale on the open market by a generous and anonymous benefactor, who bought the property as a holding measure, and gave the Gibberd Garden Trust precious time to find the money to restore it as a public amenity.

That was in 1995. What will the lottery now decide? Time and anonymous goodwill do not last forever.

● *The Gibberd Garden, off Gilden Way, Harlow, is open every Sunday, 2-6pm, from Easter Sunday until the end of September (01279 442112).*

GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY

Bust of Sir Frederick Gibberd by Gerda Rubinstein. The garden was his all-consuming passion

- Give winter protection to tender perennials (*Melianthus major*, *Salvia* spp., *Cosmos atrosanguineus*, *Dahlia merckii*) with bracken, old fern fronds, or a ventilated cloche. Keeping the soil dry is often more significant than keeping it warm.
- Plant rhubarb in well-manured ground, and cover established plants intended for forcing with a rhubarb pot or light-proof bucket.
- Complete the digging of vacant borders and vegetable plots on heavy or clay soils, and leave them rough for the frosts to break them down. On light or sandy soils, digging can be done throughout the winter and early spring, at your convenience.
- Lime, if required to correct soil acidity for vegetables, should be applied before digging and in the autumn, to bring the soil up to pH6.5 or pH7 (neutral). Lime applied in spring at the same time as fertilisers or manures containing ammonia will allow the ammonia to escape as gas and go to waste. A rule of thumb for quantities is half a pound of ground limestone to a square yard on light sandy soils, extending to a pound and a half on heavy clay soils.
- Regularly collect and burn fallen rose leaves to reduce the spread of diseases such as rust and black spot next spring. Some infection will remain on the twigs and branches, but the chances of controlling the problem are better where reinfection is minimised.
- Tie in long stems on vigorous climbers (ivy, *Hydrangea petiolaris*, *Pileostegia viburnoides*, *Schizophragma hydrangeoides*, and species of *Parthenocissus*) before winter winds can break them. Cut off loose or forward-pointing growth on any self-clinging climbers which seem reluctant to cling. This will reduce the effect of winter winds on the already-clinging roots or suckers, and allow them to consolidate their hold before the weight of new growth recommences next spring.

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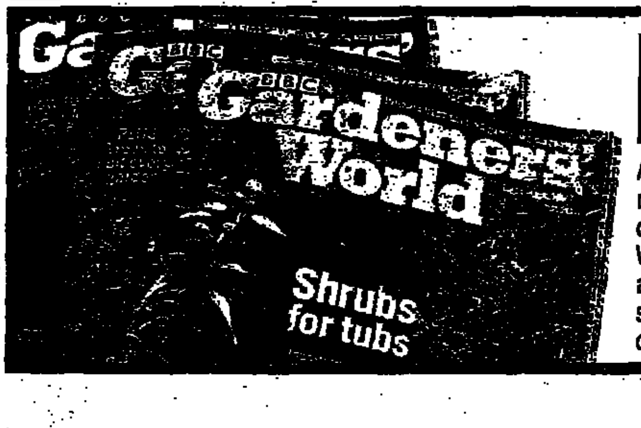

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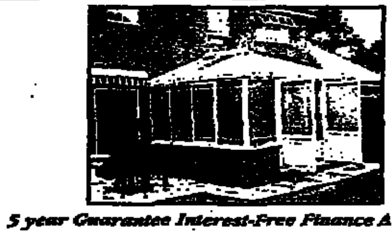

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Better shred than dead

Stephen Anderton puts hedge clippings from last summer to good use with the latest shredder

GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY

Waste not, want not: astute recycling goes a long way, as mulch, made from readily available clippings, helps to preserve moisture in the soil

I am tempted to put an advertisement in the local paper asking for other people to give me their *leylandii* hedge clippings. I am turning them into mulch, with the aid of a shredder.

Cupressocyparis leylandii, bless it, gets a terrible press. On good land with a high rainfall, leyland cypresses grow to massive proportions at a phenomenal speed — 4-5ft a year is possible.

On the other hand, the competition of life in a mature hedge slows it down, and on poor, dry soil the effect is yet more marked. As a fast-growing and short-term hedge, *leylandii* take some beating. They will even grow in exposed positions if planted small or supported carefully until they are anchored.

You can clip them only once a year, but do not expect an easy job. A top shoot on a young, hard-growing *leylandii* can be as fat as your thumb in six months, making cutting with mechanised trimmers heavy going or even impossible.

If it is cut two or three times over the season, it is much faster and easier to do, and the surfaces of the hedge look less chopped and more dense. Ultimately, it extends the life of the hedge — and most certainly that of the trimmer.

I have a couple of 12ft runs of *leylandii* hedge on the boundary of my garden. *On this poor, dry soil it* makes only a couple of feet of growth *a year at the top, and only a foot or so* of growth sideways.

But that is fine by me. I can cut the little-finger-thick top shoots with secateurs once in late summer, even doing the sides with secateurs, taking the longest droopy shoots hard back by a foot or more, and nipping a few inches off the shorter ones.

This produces a less clipped effect, and it merges into the adjacent *evergreen shrubberies. Next year* I might do away with the hedge's flat *top altogether*, and let it become a long link in the shrubbery.

But what to do with all those prunings? (Prunings they certainly are, and not clippings. They are woody.) I thought I would try shredding them to make a mulch for new plantings around the garden, to conserve the moisture in the soil.

Shredders were always tricky things. Traditionally they jammed. They screamed and tore and whined and swore as they sliced away at your prunings.

There were, and still are, semi-*commercial shredders powered by* their own petrol engine, or working off a *mini-tractor*. The best work on the principle of the wood passing through a flail in a drum, and they happily reduce thick twigs to little pieces. Fatter pieces require a chipper mechanism with a blade, and neighbours might mistake the sound for an air display.

Bigger commercial machines are *designed for the tricky problem of* shredding otherwise indestructible cemetery wreaths. You can throw a brick into these just to see if they are working properly. They work all right, and sound like a Sherman tank at top speed.

I have been using the new Quiet Shredder from Atco, priced at about £350. Unlike the other amateur electric shredders, it operates on relatively few revolutions per minute, dramatically reducing the noise.

It has a rotating hook-toothed drum, past which all the twigs are slowly pulled, crushing them against an opposing block. The noise level — *a cheery, productive rumble as it fills* its clip-on swag bag with chips — is remarkably low.

This is not the sort of noise to trouble a neighbour, and you could use it without embarrassment at the weekend, or even indoors. The shredder even manages to crack the wood across the grain into little chunks.

That might be what you would expect with dead twigs, but it still worked perfectly well on sappy new leyland twigs.

By avoiding feeding it anything fatter than recommended (the mouth of the machine itself limits the size of wood you can put in), I had no jamming problems. Even the finer scrapings-up and bits of foliage were all pulled through the machine satisfactorily, although they were a little on the thin side for the machine to chop small.

The hedge prunings were soon transformed *into a heap of mulch* used to dress the soil around new *shrubs. I could have stored it in a* heap and allowed it to begin decomposing, but it was doing no harm around the shrubs, and it certainly made watering easier. Instead of the soil becoming caked and water-repellent, the soil under the chips continued to soak up a canful every time. I only wish I had had the machine *last year when some* free-standing leylands were about to *engulf the garden*.

No domestic shredder is happy chewing on claggy, soft, wet stuff, so I never put anything with a lot of wet leaves, either broad-leaved or coniferous, through it.

But then, no one chooses to cut a hedge after a downpour, so the prunings can go straight into a shredder. That's one less pile of waste going unnecessarily to landfill.

Atco Quiet Shredder in action

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q **I have a plant in my garden grown from seed taken from Crete three years ago. It is now 12ft high and spreading sideways. It has large glaucous leaves and greeny-yellow tubular flowers, but I have no clue what it might be. Any ideas?** — M. Walicki, Benfleet, Essex.

A I see from your sample that this is a species of tobacco, *Nicotiana glauca, a tender shrub* from South America. It is naturalised in the Canary Islands, and would probably do well anywhere with a Mediterranean climate. I have even seen it growing on a south wall in north Norfolk this year, but in *Britain it is at risk outdoors*. A cool conservatory would *suit it better in the long run*. Enjoy it while you can, and protect it in winter. That succulent-looking greeny-grey leaf is certainly appealing, and if fed and watered hard, the leaves will be the size of your hand. In hotter, leaner conditions they can be *less than half that size*.

Q ***At about this time of* year, our lawn spontaneously exhibits a succession of puffballs. It is obviously a good environment for these fungi, and I would like to cultivate the large, classical, red-capped toadstool. Is this practical, how do I start, and is there a specialist cultivator?** — *M. Scott, Shrewsbury.*

A This is a touch of adventurous gardening and I wish you luck. *Amanita muscaria* is an attractive although potentially poisonous organism. Read Roger Phillips's book *Toadstools* for a description of the extraordinary *trances* and intoxications induced by *this fungus* in the Lapps and their reindeer. Your *problem* is that the conditions that suit a puffball do not necesarily suit an *Amanita*. Fungi vary enormously in their needs. *Amanita* is a woodland fungus, and makes cosy, mycorrhizal associations with birch and pine trees. It also likes the *fibrous, open-textured* soil surface found under those trees. I know of no suppliers of spawn of non-culinary fungi, so your best bet will be to find a ripe *Amanita* and break it up under any trees you might have on the lawn, *preferably* birch or pine. A *handful of soil from* the growing site might be *helpful ,too, for spores and* mycorrhiza.

Q **You recently advised that a beech tree should be pruned in late autumn. But both beech trees and hedges should be pruned in early July, according to my book. *Please* clarify.** — W.L. Astle, *Bramhall, Cheshire.*

A *Beeches* do *not* like heavy pruning. If they must have it, then late autumn is a good time, when the leaves are off and the sap is down. It is trimming (cutting back twigs and thin branches by clipping a hedge, or the *formative pruning of young* trees) not major pruning, to *which your book refers.* This should indeed be done in summer.

- *Write to: Garden Answers, Weekend*, The Times, *1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. Enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

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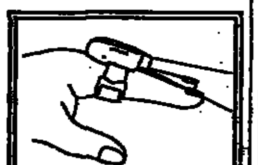

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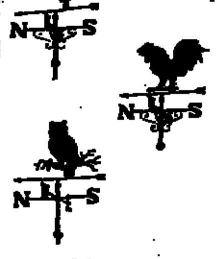

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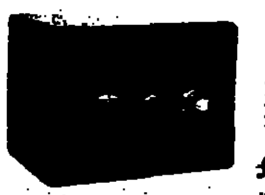

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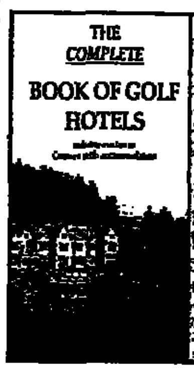

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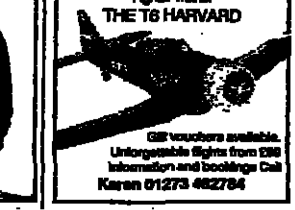

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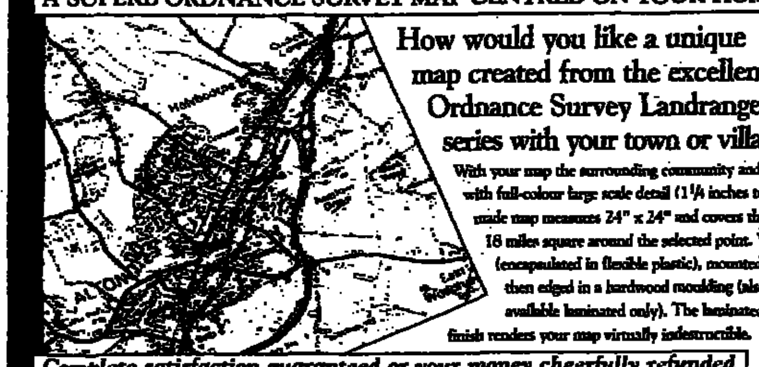

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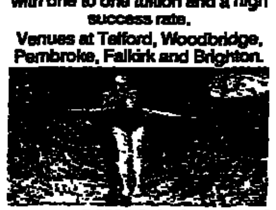

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ME AND MY GARDEN: EARL OF SNOWDON

It would be hard to imagine most of this century's icon-makers dressed in home-made laurel-leaf costumes and playing Peter Pan. It is not so hard in the case of the Puckish Earl of Snowdon. When he was six years old he designed and made a vest of laurel leaves and was thrust into a harness to take part in the family theatrical.

"It was wildly uncomfortable. My stepmother was rather a good actress, but no good at physics: I was supposed to fly from the top of a chest of drawers on one side of the stage to the top of a tallboy on the other on a pulley. Well, I didn't. I was left dangling at the centre of the stage. That had a profound influence on me. I am a manic pulley-maker."

His first pulley encounter ended when his father, standing in the wings, rescued the young Antony Armstrong-Jones, as he then was, with the help of the fishing rod he happened to be carrying.

Lord Snowdon's garden in Sussex has a pulley which propels guests and family at 40mph over a 100-yard course. His wife, Lucy, suffered the same fate as him when she had a go on the contraption for the first time. "She was stuck for ages, nearly 30ft up," he says.

"Everything is fake and theatre and jokey — everything including the gardens. Like my cranes'-feet table. Some gardens take themselves too seriously," he says.

Two cranes' legs have been used to make the legs of a small garden table in his London garden. "And that head of David," Lord Snowdon says, nodding towards the garden from his desk, "is a concrete cast with buckets of yoghurt thrown over it to age it. That is *the* David as opposed to *my* David," he says in case I have mistaken the bust for that of his son by Princess Margaret, Viscount Linley.

In the Sussex garden that he has made from nothing over the past 25 years, theatre and trickery, surprises and japes dot the sloping site. A double row of upturned roof-ridge tiles leaping from the house pour a trickle of water into a garden pond. It was inspired by William Kent's rill at Rousham in Oxfordshire: a gutter posing as an elegant water feature.

"It is where Jacques Tati meets the Villa D'Este," he says.

In a cool, secluded garden room is a rectangular pool, and a pavilion topped by an airy cupola and bell — "Complete Bastard" as Lord Snowdon puts it when quizzed about the style of the building. It is a bit Brighton Pavilion, a trifle Taj Mahal, a smattering Victorian and a touch post-Modern. It is also utter trickery: a façade, bar one small room reached by double doors which open on to a pair of naked fibre-glass mannequins sitting in relaxed positions enjoying each other's company. The bell is a two-dimensional fake with a handle from an old chest of drawers.

There is a Madonna and wholly holey Holy Child — the space for the Infant is there in the form of a hollow shape in Mary's arms. This apparently ancient, moss-covered Italian statue is a fibre-glass fake from a film set. A tall, early Victorian pot mounted on a pillar cascades ivy: plastic ivy, taken from a photographic graveyard shoot he did in New York for *Hamlet*, with Ralph Fiennes.

A tiny garden house with fireplace and minstrels gallery is, unusually, real: a playhouse he designed for his daughter, Frances, from an old tool shed.

Lord Snowdon's energy for new projects and for making theatrical beauty out of nothing is the heritage partly derived from his mother, Anne, Countess of Rosse, who used to garden wearing her beloved diamond stars (which would drop off and have to be searched for), and his theatre-designer uncle, Oliver Messel, whose influence is profound.

"My mother always said she hated good taste but she had the best taste of anyone I know," Lord Snowdon says. "She used to buy clothes from C & A and make something wonderful of them."

He shows me some pictures of the house in Barbados, where he regularly stayed with Messel in the 1960s and 1970s. "His house was close to the sea but you couldn't see it; you had to go down a little path and then there was the surprise of the sea. Surprise is so important in a garden."

PETER NICHOLLS

Lord Snowdon in the garden of his home in London: "Everything is fake and theatre and jokey — including the gardens... Some gardens take themselves too seriously"

The similarities between the verdant, cool jungle Messel created around his house and that around Lord Snowdon's London house are striking, down to a wall-mounted water feature of a mask set in an oval niche spouting water into a semicircular pool below.

He found the mask in the King's Road, Chelsea, and drilled out the eyes to create a weeping face.

The business of gardening as opposed to designing gardens holds no magic for Lord Snowdon. "I just was never that interested in gardening," he says, adding that he employs a New Zealander gardener, Christopher Masson, at his Sussex garden.

When he lived in Wales and Yorkshire, he and his sister had small plots but grew only vegetables: "It was the war, and we grew things to eat then. It was frightfully dull. I never planted any flowers or shrubs."

So speaks the man whose grandparents, Leonard and Maude Messel, both botanists, created one of Britain's most famous garden, Nymans in Sussex. "I'm not mad about the garden at Nymans. It has no water. I love Stourhead and the view across the lake."

Water is so important in a garden, Lord Snowdon says. "So is lighting in a garden. You should never see the source of light. In London I have made six or seven snoods out of big, old Ovaltine tins which direct the light up."

Even as a child, wild, hard landscaping rather than plants caught his imagination. In his stepmother's Yorkshire garden he made a large tree-house in an oak out of old bits of wood and anything else he could find, and a series of underground dens.

The only planting he mentions is "The Indian Rope Trick": a morning glory plant that curls its way up a rope of about 5ft long with no visible means of support. Planting proper in his Sussex garden is, as he says, done by his gardener.

Lord Snowdon's latest project is to add copper leaves to a couple of pots at the front of the London house. The leaves are a Snowdon signature. He cuts them from a sheet of copper and then stamps in the veins with a blunt chisel and bends them by hand to give them life. They flutter, almost like flames, from the top of the fairy-tale curved-wall gazebo he has built — "Lucy's room" — around a vast, old lime tree the planners refused to allow him to cut down. The leaves spout from the arms of the cupola on the Complete Bastard pavilion.

"And I've improved this garage by putting wobbly balls at each end and then adding the moulding, which I made from VPI..." *pause*... "Do I mean that or is that something else?" he asks with a big grin. "Maybe it's MFI."

Using his camera as a notebook, Lord Snowdon copies patterns and shapes that he sees and transfers them into his garden. Sometimes he copies whole structures, such as a covered pavilion with wooden steps down into his lake in the country which he first saw in a floating market in Bangkok. Nearby there is a collection of ceramic pillars he happened to find behind his garage in London: he calls them the "Gossip Columns".

"Would you like to see a picture of me with Glenn Close?" Another big grin. A scrapbook is opened. Lord Snowdon is portrayed leaning against a street sign: Glen Close.

Puck rules, OK.

JANE OWEN

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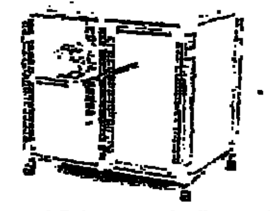

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PETS ☆ Kittens ☆ African Greys ☆ Amazons ☆ Budgerigar ☆ Cockatiel ☆ Cockatoos ☆ Macaws ☆ Ferrets ☆ Guinea Pigs ☆ Hamsters ☆ Boas/Pythons ☆ Frogs ☆ Iguanas ☆ Spiders ☆ Tarantulas ☆ Koi Carp
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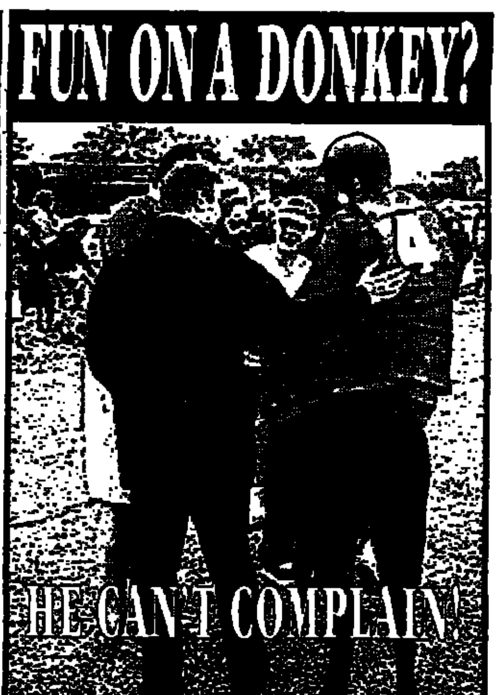

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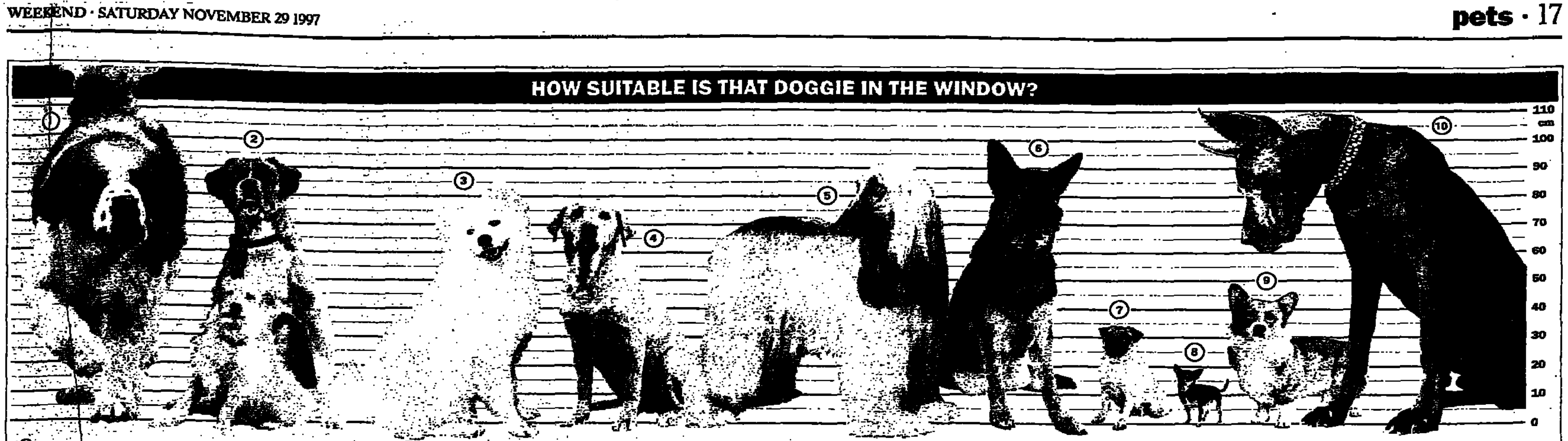
HOW SUITABLE IS THAT DOGGIE IN THE WINDOW?



① **St Bernard** — Huge dog (average weight 75kg) which easily fills the back seat of a car. It has a phlegmatic temperament, doesn't need a lot of exercise and is short-lived (not many live longer than ten years).

② **Boxer** — Busy, active and good-natured, weighing about 31kg. Needs to be entertained; loves the company of dogs. Short coat needs little grooming. Suits families with teenagers.

③ **Samoyed** — Long white coat, hairy feet and a mind of its own. Needs a conscientious owner with time to spend on grooming and training, but a well-trained samoyed is a pleasure. Weighs about 23kg.

④ **Labrador** — Working dog which needs occupation; it makes a good gundog, guide dog or sniffer dog and a first-class family dog. Obesity can be a problem as it will eat almost anything. Weighs about 30kg.

⑤ **Afghan** — An elegant, glamorous dog that can look wonderful if time is spent grooming its coat. Aloof, even stand-offish with strangers, but bred to chase at high speed, so even at 30kg can cover 100 yards in ten seconds.

⑥ **German Shepherd** — Guard dog par excellence. It has a mind of its own, so needs a firm owner, respected by the dog. Highly intelligent and can be taught to do almost anything. Big, at around 36kg, with plenty of energy.

⑦ **Pug** — Devoted pet (average weight 7kg), which doesn't need much exercise and is happiest pottering round the house and garden. Inclined to snort and snore in old age and, like all of the smaller breeds, lives a long time, into its late teens.

⑧ **Chihuahua** — Smallest breed in the world, weighing about 2kg. Easy to pick up, but not a dog for children — dropping from a child's arms is the equivalent of our falling from a first-floor window. Good house dog that will bark to tell you when anyone's about. Short-haired ones need no more than a polish with a duster, but the long haired variety takes more time.

⑨ **Corgi** (average weight 12kg). The Pembroke variety lives in palaces; the Cardigan has a long tail. Small dogs, easily carried. The dense undercoat keeps water out but can collect mud — and worse. With hearty appetites and short legs, weight-watching is essential to avoid owning a walking barrel.

⑩ **Great Dane** (bigger varieties can weigh 90kg). A short-haired giant, which requires minimum of grooming. Too big for most cars or laps, but tall enough to look down on other dogs and to treat them with tolerant disinterest. Usually good with children, but an accidental bump will knock a toddler to the ground.

James Allcock

Puppy love: a good breed guide

How many of the 160 breeds of dog at the Kennel Club show today at Earls Court would make good pets?

James Allcock sorts the pooches from the pedigrees

Every vet has heard an unhappy dog owner say: "We wouldn't have chosen this breed if we had known how much trouble they were" or "we felt so sorry for him in the pet shop". Pet-owning is like marriage — you may have years of leisure in which to repent of your impulses — and it pays enormous dividends if you consider carefully which breed to acquire.

Choosing the right animal is no simple matter. The Kennel Club recognises more than 160 breeds of dogs — all shapes, sizes and colours, long-haired, short-haired and almost hairless, with widely varying temperaments and activity levels. One family's perfect pet can be totally unsuitable for someone else — although nearly 7 million dogs are kept in 5.4 million households, so it looks as though most people do make the right choice.

There are scores of reasons for spending time choosing your first, or next, puppy. It is important to match owner and dog: energetic breeds need energetic owners, long-haired ones need regular grooming or pet parlour visits, and working dogs need to work.

Size is also crucial. Giant breeds such as mastiffs, Irish wolfhounds, Pyrenean mountain dogs and St Bernards, weighing between 85lb and 160lb, take a lot of hearthrug and car space — and long-haired giants have acres of coat to groom. But they take life at a pedestrian pace, always prepared to lie down and wait for something to happen.

Big dogs also cost more to feed and have a shorter lifespan than their smaller cousins — a St Bernard is old at ten, whereas many Cairn terriers are going strong at 16. These giants are too big to be a family dog, but they do not need a country estate, and can have a good life in a large-roomed flat or town house with adult owners who enjoy long, leisurely walks.

If you want to go one size down (those between 45 and 85lb), there are plenty of breeds to choose from, including most of the gundogs. The name "gundog" is actually an historic classification — a dozen generations of breeding for show or pet purposes has made many "gundogs" terrified of the sound of a 12-bore. Real gun-loving gundogs, such as a spaniel, retriever, labrador, setter or pointer, need to spend their days working and retrieving game, so they are only worth adding to your family if you have time to work them hard on a farm or in a park.

If you are considering one of these breeds, it is worth thinking about their coat length. Some retrievers have a double coat and if they live in a centrally-heated house they shed hair all year round and need thorough, regular grooming. Cocker spaniels' long, hairy ears need careful brushing every day so they stay "lightweight" and do not block their ear canals. Most of the Spitz breeds such as samoyeds, keeshounds, elkhounds and chows also fall into this category. They have a dense "stand off" coat, their hairs are at right angles to the skin and their tails curl back over the spine. They are also paragons of virtue: for the past 30 years, chow breeders have concentrated on producing amenable dogs, and have succeeded.

Big dogs cost more to feed and have shorter lifespans

Many breeds in the Kennel Club's "working group" — collies, sheepdogs, German shepherds, boxers and rottweilers — are also in this weight range, but they need a purpose in life: guarding a flock, herding animals or simply pleasing their owner by following his or her commands.

A working sheepdog (the *One Man and his Dog* type) will go mad if confined to a suburban house for 22 hours a day, as will slight hounds such as greyhounds, borzois, afghans and salukis, which hunt by sight and gallop at high speeds over short distances — even a slothful greyhound will take little more than 30 seconds to travel 500 yards. But these few minutes of high-velocity activity are usually followed by a few hours of relaxation, convenient for owners with limited spare time.

Dogs between 15lb and 45lb are easily portable and include most of the terriers except Airedales and Yorkies, which enjoy digging holes, chasing balls and investigating, and so are excellent pets for a family with active children. They also include Staffordshire bull terriers, which have been the dogs in my life for the past 20 years. They are hard work to keep, because they're so busy, but the short coat needs little grooming.

Corgis, both Pembroke and Cardigan, also fit this size category. Their ancestors were cattle dogs which encouraged cows to move on by nipping their legs — a propensity not totally obliterated in some strains; although the breed standard requires corgis to be "outgoing and friendly", they don't always comply.

Whippets weigh around 25lb and have all the virtues of the larger sight hounds such as greyhounds. They are seen as slightly shy dogs because they often seem to tremble, but this is a sign that they are ready to go, rather than unhappy or afraid. They're short haired and non-aggressive, so make an excellent pet for a urban family.

The real tinies, below 15lb, may be too fragile for family life with rumbustious children. However, because they are inexpensive to feed, are easily picked up and need equally little exercise, they make excellent companions for those of advancing years. I would recommend a short-haired breed such as a smooth chihuahua, pug, miniature pinscher or Italian greyhound, although they must all be groomed: too many Pekes, Poms and similar long-haired tinies get into a mess, and even maggot-infested if they are not kept clean and tidy.

Too many long-haired tinies get maggots if not kept tidy

Once the breed has been chosen, the sex of the dog is the next question. My preference is for a bitch every time. They're gentler, usually smaller than their brothers and their maternal instinct extends to a kindliness and care for children. Males of every species are aggressive and their negative virtues extend to fighting, wandering and cocking legs on the cabbages. Whichever sex is chosen, there's a lot in favour of neutering.

It is vital to know as much as you can about a puppy's breeding. It is worth visiting the home where it was born so that you can check the mother, and often the father, of the litter. It is nearly always the case that the offspring of "nice to know" parents will probably grow up with the same virtues. If mum and dad don't appeal, I would advise saying thanks but no thanks, and looking elsewhere.

Watch carefully, too, when you arrive. When a litter of pups trot out for your inspection (they're really having a good look at you) there will be a boss pup who leads and a last in line that is shy and retiring. Take note. If you're extrovert and strong-minded, the lead pup will be an excellent choice. If you like a quiet life, the last one out might be best.

The final factor to consider is cost. You will pay between £100 and £350 for a healthy, quality, fully-registered pedigree pup, and more if its owners believe it will have a show or breeding career. If buying for a pet, the puppy must have a perfect temperament; an unwanted white hair or slightly short ear flap won't matter at all.

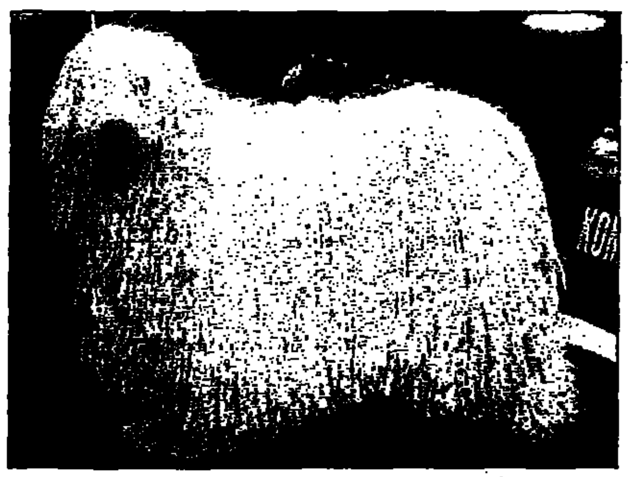
Dogs, of course, also have to be fed. In 1996, dog owners spent £667 million on prepared pet food and £84 million on "treats", representing a food bill of almost exactly £100 per dog per year.

Vet fees can be covered by pet health insurance costing £60 to £100 per year, but you will still have to pay for boosters, which cost about another £30. Kennelling during your holidays will cost between £4 and £7 a day and clipping, stripping or shampooing hairy dogs can cost another £100 in the year — which all adds up to shelling out about £5 to £10 a week for many years to come.

Dog breeders rarely worry about what's said about them, but criticising their breed is another matter. So now I'll retire to my bunker hoping to avoid the slings and arrows fired because I've been disrespectful to one breed or failed to mention another.

● *You can find out the pluses and minuses of more than 160 breeds from experts with no axe to grind (since they won't be trying to sell them to you) at the Kennel Club's Discover Dogs show. See below.*

Fashions that last one shake of a shar-pei's tail



The komondor: victim of a permanently bad hair day

© DISNEY

Disney's *101 Dalmatians* set a trend for the spotty dog

REX

The British bulldog: "The lovable, dependable comedian of the canine world"

Carol Price on the danger of succumbing to the fads for exotic breeds

Would you know a bergamasco from a havanese? Do you think a bracco italiano is (a) a liqueur, (b) a cheese or (c) a penalty box manoeuvre by Juventus? Wrong answers to any of the above show you might have a way to go in the world of fashionable dog ownership. For those are just some of the latest pedigree breeds to come to Britain, and will duly be displayed at today's Discover Dogs show at Earls Court, west London.

With about 160 pedigree dog breeds already in this country, highlighting the endless combinations of canine genes, one could ask do we need any more? Well, yes, it seems we do — as long as trends in novel dogs continue, and there are customers in the canine marketplace willing to pay a high price for them.

"There will always be people for whom dogs are status symbols," says Claire Horton-Bussey, editor of *Dogs Today*. "They want to be able to walk down the street with something different on a lead and have everyone look at them."

Dogs with impressive show-winning histories also carry snob-appeal. Phil Buckley of the Kennel Club knows of "wealthy people who'll collect expensive dogs like others might collect classic cars", and cites one American who recently bought a top show bull terrier in this country for £35,000 "just as a pet".

The more common pedigree pups in Britain can cost from £100 to £850 depending on source and background. The rarer or trendier ones can cost more than £1,000.

If you wanted a truly different dog, they don't come more idiosyncratic than the good old British bulldog. According to the Kennel Club's external affairs executive, Brian Leonard, pups are going for up to £1,000 despite this breed's notorious health problems — breathing difficulties and birth complications — due to its over-exaggerated anatomy.

Mr Leonard attributes the bulldog's lasting appeal to its role as "the lovable, dependable comedian of the canine world" — a sort of Les Dawson of a dog. If you wanted more of a Liam Gallagher on a lead, however, it could be something like the komondor. This is an expensive Hungarian sheepdog with the potential for a permanently bad hair day. Its coat comprises intricate dinky tassels, like a high-performance mop, which must be expertly arranged and coiffured. Described as "very noisy, temperamental and often aggressive", the komondor has fans who will insist there is no dog quite like it, and few would argue.

If you had between £2,000 and £3,000 to spare you might secure one of the limited dogue de Bordeaux pups available here. This is the fren mastiff which was endearingly portrayed alongside Tom Hanks in the film *Turner & Hooch*. But beware; not only is there that ferrywash of slobber to contend with, but the Kennel Club refuses to recognise the breed "mainly because of its past associations with dog fighting".

So which are the other must-have dogs of the moment? Ms Horton-Bussey says: "Anything vaguely wolf-like, such as the Siberian husky or Japanese akita. People seem to love the idea now of having this raw, wild kind of dog. They think it's romantic."

But the reality often isn't. Ian and Diana Sidwell, long-time owners of akitas in the Midlands, say they are continually having to tell potential buyers that a dog bred for hunting bears is not likely to make the most amenable suburban pet.

"Akitas are wonderful, loyal and affectionate dogs," they say, "but they are also born hunters. Their tendency to chase down any small animal and be dominant with other dogs means you might have to keep them constantly on a lead. They are strong-willed, require firm handling, and can moult horrendously."

Such considerations bring us to the most serious aspect of canine faddism: that when dogs are bought on a whim they can be discarded in the same way. "People thought shar-peis were wonderful when they first arrived here some years ago, with their cute wrinkly folds of skin," Mr Leonard says. "Then they discovered the breed had eye, immune system and skin problems, and those little folds made them smell.

"Everyone also wanted a dalmatian after the Disney film until they realised they had 70lb of muscle that would rip the place apart like a bored teenager unless they got miles and miles of exercise each day."

Mr Leonard maintains that a central aim of Discover Dogs will be to tell people about the dogs they shouldn't buy as much as those they should. Not only are some more exotic breeds "best left to specialists", he says, but when dogs fall victim to fading fashion, the only people left doing brisk business are rescue centres.

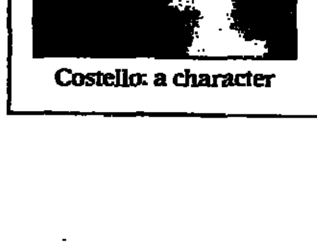
● *Tickets for Discover Dogs are available from the Kennel Club Hotline (0171-518 1012) and the Earls Court box office (0171-373 5511).*

Britain's most popular dog breeds

1 Labrador retriever
2 German shepherd
3 West Highland white terrier
4 Golden retriever
5 Cocker spaniel
6 English springer spaniel
7 Cavalier King Charles spaniel
8 Yorkshire terrier
9 Boxer
10 Staffordshire bull terrier

Source: the Kennel Club

ADOPT ME



Costello: a character

COSTELLO is an eight-year-old black and white male cat who has been at the Godmanchester branch for more than a year. He is full of character, and gets on well with other cats, but would be better suited to a home with an experienced owner with no other cats, dogs or young children. If you would like to adopt Costello, call Wood Green Animal Shelter (01480 830014), ref: KCS2235.

A VET WRITES

Q Should Humphrey the cat have been moved from 10 Downing Street?

A The medical bulletins about the Prime Ministerial cat have not been too precise, but the clinical details of the great have always been shrouded in mist. Winston Churchill suffered one or more severe strokes while PM, although few knew about this at the time. Anthony Eden and Harold Macmillan ended their careers surrounded by medical pronouncements — which varied with the political needs of the hour. And did any one actually hear George V's wish to commit an illegal sexual act upon Bognor?

Both "kidney failure" and "incontinence" have been suggested as reasons to move Humphrey to live in south London. But these are two totally different conditions.

If Humphrey's kidneys are wearing out — and he has reached the age when his pinstriped namesake would be entering sheltered accommodation — then the cat will benefit from the move. Hopefully the house will have an enclosed garden and one person responsible for his wellbeing. His carer will know where he is, and what and when he's eating and drinking. As a No 10 cat he was everyone's cat but was his absence noticed if he went missing? Or was it assumed he was terrifying the ducks in St James's Park?

Wet patches could be territory marking — deliberately urinating to scent-mark his boundaries. Which is hardly senile incontinence. Cats do this when something has changed and there is a threat to a comfortable existence. If this is what has happened, then moving will add to the stress. Eleven-year-old cats can find it difficult to cope with changed surroundings.

Humphrey's relocation might be the best for him, or it might simply be convenient for others. Time will tell, but will we ever be told?

JAMES ALLCOCK

● *Write to The Times Vet, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.*

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T W E E D L E D U M A N D T W E E D L E D E E

The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Tom Whitelaw, of Bearsden in Scotland

هكذا من الاصل

'I can turn the inside of our house into a replica of Stringfellows nightclub if I wish, but I may not change a window frame'

Homes that fail to make the grade

It's a dog's life, living in a listed building. Ask Ivy, the sheepdog-lurcher cross who hit the headlines recently by refusing to live in the kennel her owners provided for her. It was no ordinary kennel. Attached to what is described as a "masterpiece" of a house, a converted abbey near Bristol, the kennel has been classified as Grade I. It cannot be altered for other uses.

This does not impress Ivy. Despite being built of the most beautiful textured stone, the Tudor kennel holds no attraction for her. No doubt Lord St John of Fawsley will be down there, salivating over it; but Ivy pants only reluctantly. It's cold, it's draughty. Law forbids any alteration so she prefers the kitchen.

None of this surprises me. Anyone who has tried to do their best for animals will confirm that, by and large, they are an unappreciative lot. Horse and pony owners will tell you of the expense to which they have gone to provide a shelter in a field so that the horse can get out of the wind and rain. But come the first snowfall or blast of Arctic air, where will the horse be? Standing in the middle of the field, unprotected, rear end to the wind, ignoring everything the weather can throw at it. If you are looking for a pastime, take note as you drive round the countryside of how many times you see a horse standing in a shelter its owner has provided. A sight as rare as hen's teeth, as they say around here.

Cattle are just as bad. A fine cow shelter was the first building we erected on the farm. It was built of our favoured material — old telegraph poles — and was a structure of the lowest grade imaginable. Nobody would have listed it except under "firewood". But it would have kept the rain and snow off the cows if they had ever bothered to stand under it. They didn't. And pigs are no better. For our farrowing sows, I used to arrange a snug little maternity unit complete with deep, chopped straw so the piglets would not lose themselves in the bedding, an infra-red bulb to keep them warm, and sacking across the windows to keep out draughts. This was hugely enjoyed by the sows until the moment of farrowing when they plonked themselves down in the draughtiest corner of the pig run and got down to business. It is like pregnant mothers in Queen Charlotte's abandoning the linen sheets on feeling the first twinges, and going outside to give birth in the bus shelter. There is no pleasing some.

DOWN TO EARTH

PAUL HEINEY

But life for anyone in a listed building can be tricky. We live in a Grade II listed farmhouse. It's no big deal. Houses are listed if built before a certain date: it is as simple as that. It is not necessarily a measure of the virtue of the building, just a recognition of the fact that it is old.

Our house certainly isn't special — just a typical East Anglian, long, thin farmhouse. I have often thought that listing on the basis of age is a simplistic approach to the preservation of dwellings. If you draw a parallel with old people, there are many grumpy old souls fit only for bulldozing and others that you would wish to preserve for ever. Merely being old is no great virtue in itself.

What is even more irrational about the listing of houses is that often the only thing which is protected is the outside appearance. As a planning officer once explained to me, I can turn the inside of our house into a replica of Stringfellows nightclub if I wish, but try to change a window frame and the full weight of the planning law will descend upon me.

But anyone who understands houses appreciates that façade matters for very little when it comes to the fraught business of daily life. Some of the grandest creations are dreary holes, spooky and drab. Did anyone really think Mentmore would have been a happy place to live in? Does anyone go home from a Buck House visit wishing they lived in one of those icing-sugar halls? On the other hand, I have been in badly-constructed cottages built to a mean specification, and found a welcoming warmth which an entire estate of National Trust houses could not muster. It goes without saying which will be preserved, and which flattened at the slightest hint of a new supermarket.

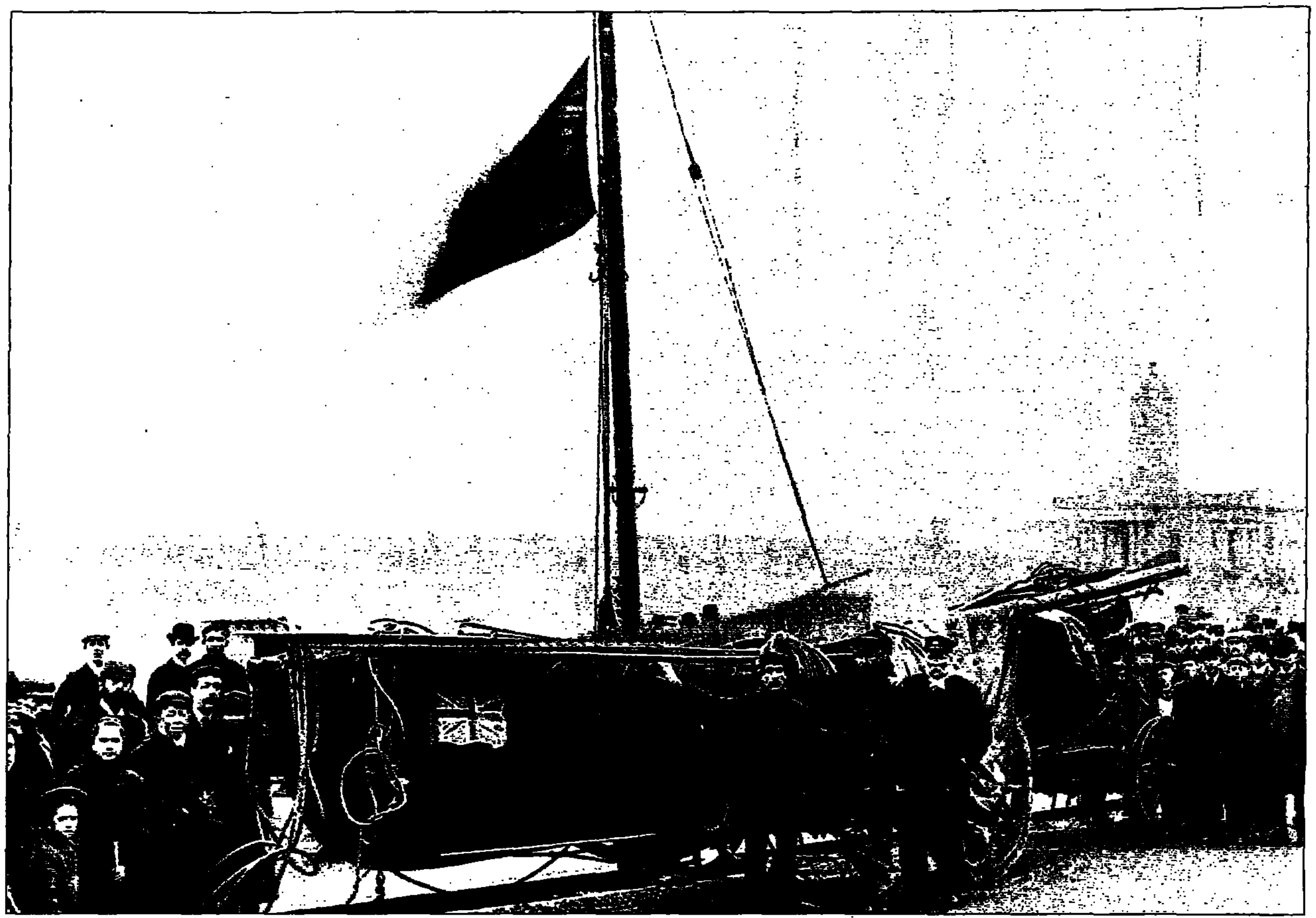
Having said that, I have no alternative way of assessing properties worthy of preservation than the one we employ. To judge the convenience and feel of a home would require an assessor to dwell in the house for at least a week, if not longer. And life is difficult enough without a knock on the door from a planning officer, complete with pyjamas, telling you he'll be moving in for a fortnight to reassess your "listing", which he believes might have changed since you swept the chimney and got the kitchen window unstuck at last.

So pity poor Ivy who will not snuggle up in a kennel over which more socially ambitious dogs might fight. She has come up with a grading system of her own, based on how she feels: just as we all do about houses old and new. It must be galling for her owners that she has given it the paws-down, but it proves that what constitutes a decent home is more complex than planning laws admit.

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters, of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. They are published on the first Saturday of the month.

Gone but never forgotten

GRAEME STOREY



The recent Shetlands tragedy (above left) recalls the day 100 years ago when surfboat *Friend to All Nations* capsized in hurricane-force winds off the Margate coast (above)

Peter Birkett visits Margate to commemorate the last century's worst British lifeboat disaster

It is ten days since helicopter winchman William Deacon died in Shetland seas as he tried to save the crew of a stricken cargo ship. By unhappy chance, Deacon's sacrifice comes exactly 100 years after the last century's worst British lifeboat disaster.

The memory of the Margate surfboat disaster of December 2, 1897, remains vivid in the Kent resort which gave nine of its gallant men to the sea.

Tomorrow, hundreds will gather on Margate seafront to take part in a simple wreath-laying ceremony. Later, the townspeople will be joined by a handful of descendants of the dead crewmen at a service of remembrance.

It will be, says John Farmer, the 62-year-old great-grandson of George Ladd, one of the crew who perished, an occasion for "awed respect" for the men whose names are still recalled in the town's pubs.

Even in the days when life at sea was cheap, the Margate disaster stunned Britain. Twenty thousand people attended the funeral. Five who survived were fêted as heroes for the rest of their lives and a fund for the relatives of the dead raised nearly £10,000, the equivalent today of almost £1 million. Queen Victoria sent a personal cheque for £35.

At the time Margate had two lifeboats, the RNLI's *Quiver* and a lighter, faster 32ft surfboat, owned by the town's fishermen, called *Friend to All Nations*. Both boats were crewed from a pool of 120 men deemed eligible as lifeboatmen and, because of the opportunities to earn considerable sums from salvage claims, competition was fierce for a place aboard.

But the speed of the ten-oared *Friend* made her the favourite, and, when the alarm was raised, the lifeboatmen would dash to get a place aboard her.

The terrible events of 1897 began when a great storm hit the east coast on November 29, with hurricane force north-easterly gales which blew for days. At 5am on December 2, the duty coastguard saw distress signals from a vessel, the cargo ship *Persian Empire*. Twenty minutes later *Friend* launched from the harbour slipway, the race won that day by 13 men: William Cook Snr (Coxswain), Henry Richard Brockman, William Cook Jnr, Robert Cook, Edward Crunden, John Dike, William Gill, George Ladd, Henry John Brockman, Joseph Epps, John Gilbert, Robert Ladd and Charles Troughton, the superintendent of the Margate Ambulance Corps.

As the *Friend* made her way into the huge breakers, other lifeboatmen prepared to launch *Quiver*, finding their way blocked by the surfboat's launching trolley, almost certainly left on the slipway as a delaying tactic.

Aboard *Friend*, the crew were pulling powerfully on the oars towards the Mayland Rock, off the western end of Margate. But just as she rounded the rock a huge sea rolled in and, despite valiant efforts by Cox'n Cook, the vessel capsized.

The lifeboatmen who lost their lives in the rescue attempt

Following exactly the same route as the *Friend* in the wild seas and pitch darkness, the crew of *Quiver* were unaware of the tragedy unravelling in the very waters they were sailing. They held their course past the rock, out towards the *Persian Empire*.

Mr Epps, one of the *Friend's* five survivors, later recalled the last moments of the stricken surfboat as he and William Cook Jnr clung desperately to the gunwales. Cook, said Epps, cried out: "Oh dear, Oh Lord. She's going!"

Epps found himself beneath the upturned boat and was able to jam his arms between the thwarts, keeping his head in the air-pocket. Still submerged, he was rescued when the boat was smashed ashore. Three others, Henry John Brockman, John Gilbert and Robert Ladd, also made it back but the others drowned.

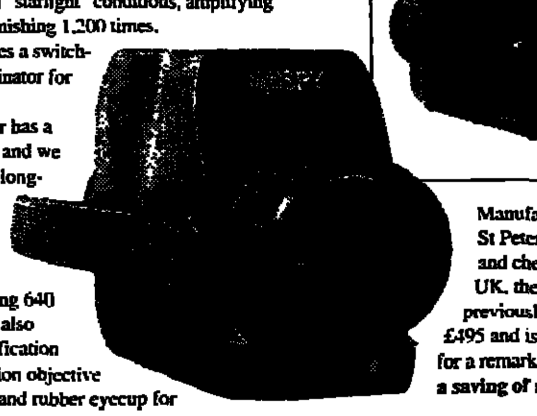
News of the disaster swept Margate in an instant. Thousands gathered on the seafront as dawn broke. As the day unfolded, Troughton's body was the first to come ashore, then that of Cox'n Cook. By nightfall there five women had been widowed and 14 children were left without a father.

Margate went into mourning as a single mass grave was dug. The entire town turned out to watch when ten days later the coffins of eight of the crewmen were carried along the seafront on the *Friend's* launching trolley. The ninth coffin, that of Troughton, was carried on an ambulance litter by members of the Margate Ambulance Corps.

Within hours of the disaster the mayor announced the setting up of the relatives' relief fund. There was criticism of the decision to spend a large sum on a marble monument, rather than provide almshouses for the widows and orphans.

There was also resentment, which lasted for years, that the widows would receive a weekly allowance of 15 shillings from the fund. The children would get half a crown.

Today the controversy, unlike the brave men, is long forgotten. And tomorrow for the people of Margate will be a day for quiet pride.



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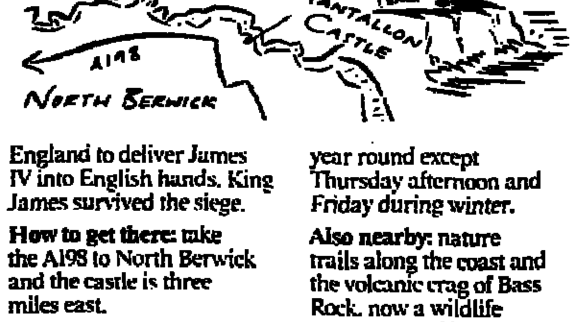
ON THE SPOT: TANTALLON CASTLE

JANE SPENCER



Rural recommendations

The place: Tantallon Castle, North Berwick, East Lothian.

The view: overlooking the Firth of Forth and, ahead, the small island of Bass Rock and its lighthouse.

The appeal: a formidable castle in a rugged setting.

Aficionados: Friends of Historic Scotland and overseas visitors.

Historical interest: it was built in the 14th century and played a defensive role for 200 years. One such siege began after Archibald, the fifth Earl, entered a treasonable pact with Henry VII of England to deliver James IV into English hands. King James survived the siege.

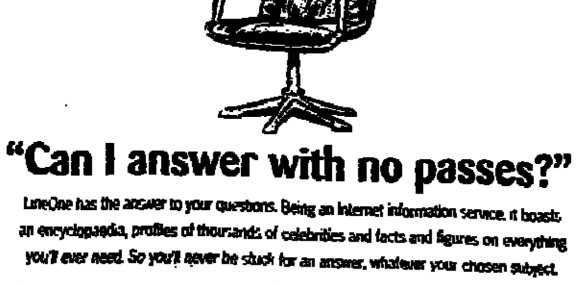
How to get there: take the A198 to North Berwick and the castle is three miles east.

OS ref: 596/851 on sheet 67.

Time to visit: open all year round except Thursday afternoon and Friday during winter.

Also nearby: nature trails along the coast and the volcanic crag of Bass Rock, now a wildlife sanctuary and home to a colony of gannets.

DEBORAH KING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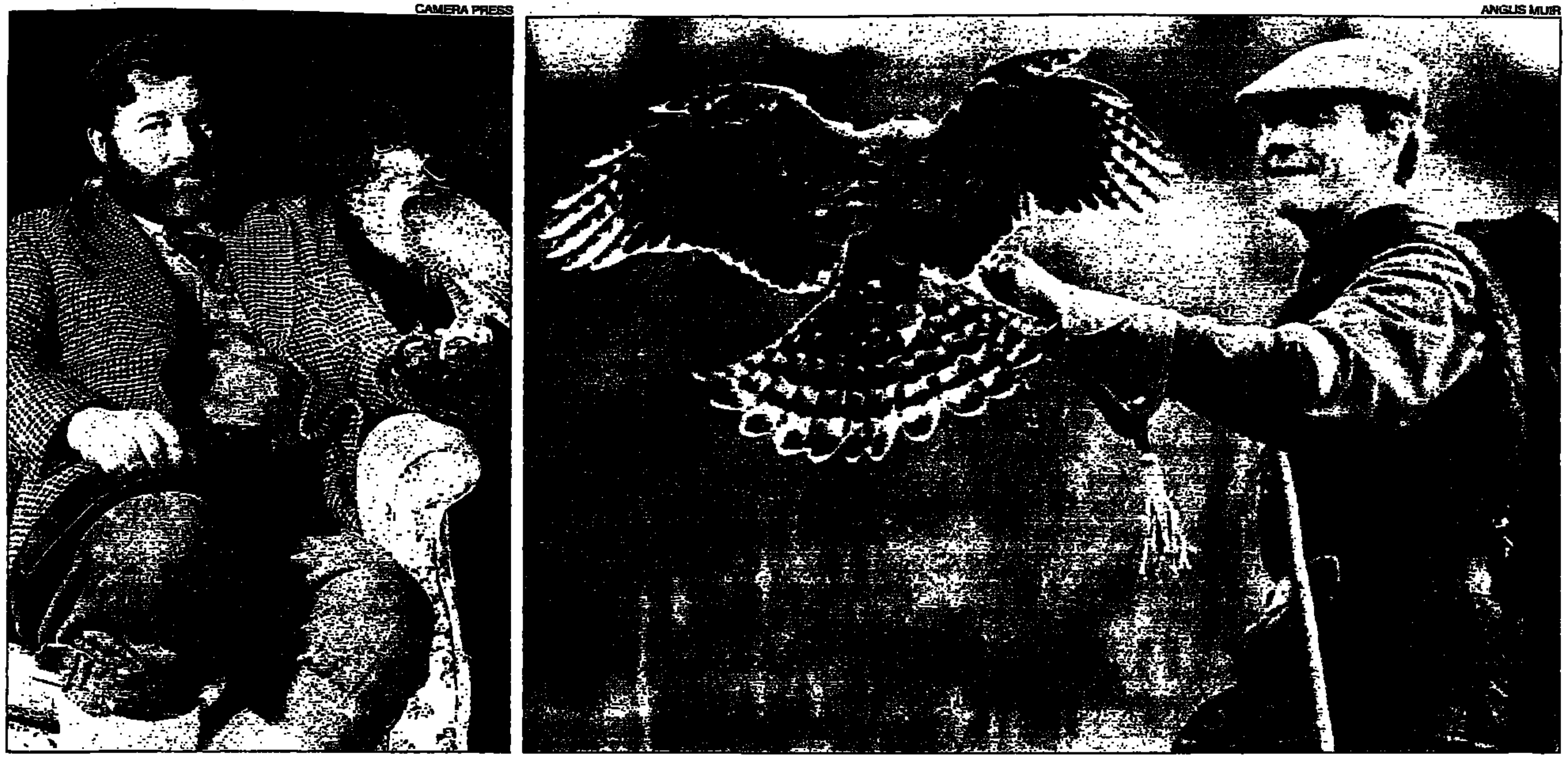
Once the sport of the aristocracy, falconry has begun to catch the imagination of all classes, says **Rohan Daft**



The actor James Robertson Justice was a keen falconer. Nick Kester with his goss hawk Freya: the pair regularly hunt at dawn before Mr Kester commutes into London

Winged winners in the talon contest

From the flash of the white button of a tail to the small and final squeak took less than ten seconds. In between, came the ominous sound, some 30 yards distant, of wings beating and the soft tinkle of a small bell. The goss hawk had taken its quarry.

Had it been something more appealing than a rabbit in the advanced stages of myxomatosis it would have been shared out; the fillet going into its owner Nick Kester's pot and the rest to the bird. As it was, the hawk was quickly recovered and the horribly mutated rabbit dispatched and disposed of. Within a minute or so, we were off again.

Falconry — taking a wild quarry by means of a trained hawk — has been enjoying something of a renaissance. Numerous courses have sprung up for beginners. For those who have neither the time nor inclination to own their own bird there are various falconry centres where birds — for the most part Harris hawks, the easiest hawks to handle — can be hired by the day or half day. (Incidentally the difference between hawks and falcons is that a falcon can be a hawk, but a hawk can't be a falcon.)

The fashion designer Alexander McQueen is a big fan, as his collection for Givenchy earlier this year — all eagle wings and feathered corsets — reflected. Rob Wainright, the Scottish rugby union player, also goes hawking, as does the actress Miranda Richardson, though she doesn't actually hunt anything. The Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and Princess Royal keep up the age-old royal tradition of hawking at Sandringham.

But what was once very much a sport for the upper-classes is now, if not quite a sport for the people, certainly fast becoming the field sport for the people.

"It's completely classless," says Mr Kester, spokesman of the 1,000-strong British Falconers' Club. "It has become more artisan. A lot of falconers now choose their careers so they can go hawking. I know an awful lot of shift workers."

Mr Kester, who works in marketing, hawks from dawn every day before setting off for his London office. The sport is not prohibitively expensive (an introductory lesson costs about £50 and a decent hawk, such as a Harris, will set you back between £500 and £600 — about the same as a decent mountain bike). In the words of a number of its new-found participants, hawking is fast-becoming "the acceptable side of field sports".

The beauty of the bird helps — Mr Kester's bird, Freya, fiercely amber-eyed, is about two feet long and has a wingspan of about three and a half feet — but what undoubtedly contributes to this "acceptability" is the nature versus nature aspect. Although the League Against Cruel Sports is opposed to hawking, its greatest concern is not the hunting of animals by other animals, but the conditions in which some hawks are kept. Little happens in hawking that doesn't happen in the wild, and, on top of that, the majority of hawkers hawk for the pot. Indeed, if anything, the taking of a rabbit by a trained bird is a far less painful act than it is in the wild where a goss hawk, for instance, will eat a rabbit alive.

But that doesn't mean that falconers (and there are some 3,000 that actually own and fly their own birds) feel any less threatened by proposed anti-hunting legislation than other field sportsmen.

Substitute my flailing at a hedgerow with a stick to flush out rabbit for the more traditional "backing a point" (where two pointers locate and flush out their prey) and the passing of Mike Foster's Anti-Hunting Bill would put an end to that particular method of hawking for rabbit and hare.

The hawking fraternity's greatest fear is possibly appeasement. Mr Kester says: "Falconry was banned in Denmark to appease the green lobby. There are only about 3,000 falconers in this country |compared to some 250,000 who hunt| and that makes us very vulnerable". For all its new-found popularity, and the existence of the British Falconers' Club, the social camaraderie of hunting and shooting — the balls and dinners — doesn't really exist with falconry. Mr Kester says: "It is a solitary sport. Most falconers go out alone or with only one other falconer."

After a day out in each other's company in Kent we ended up empty-handed. Freya flew five times but took nothing but one diseased rabbit. "You need infinite patience," said Mr Kester as we made our way home. "James Robertson Justice was a very keen falconer, and he said: 'It takes a comparatively short time to train a falcon and about seven years to train a falconer'."

● *Information on introductory courses and lessons can be obtained from the British Falconers' Club, Home Farm, Hints, Nr. Tamworth, Staffordshire B78 3DW (01534 481737).*

Drumming up interest

FEATHER REPORT

SNIPE ARE a more familiar sight in winter than they used to be. This is not because they are more common but because there are now so many more nature reserves with hides looking out on to pools with boggy edges — just the sort of place where snipe like to doze all day before going off to dig for worms at night.

I have often watched them from a few yards away, with their amazing long beaks, and a most beautiful pattern of golden stripes on their mantle. But if you just walk through wet meadows or marshes in winter, all you see of them is a bird leaping up with a rasping cry, zigzagging over the ground, then towering up and away into the sky. That is the challenging sight that sportsmen seek out.

After Christmas the snipe start returning to the moors and bogs, where they breed, and then they become easier to see. As the days grow longer, the males begin to fly around their territories, making a loud "ticker, ticker" call, then plunging down to earth, making a humming or buzzing sound that has been likened either to a bleating goat or to distant thunder. It is an extraordinary sound, and once gave rise to a fierce debate.

In Victorian times, it was generally believed that the "drumming" (as it is generally called) was produced vocally. Some people, however, thought the sound was made by the rapid movement of the bird's wings. But as the snipe descends, it can easily be seen that its two outer tail feathers are sticking out at right angles to its tail.

So a number of experiments were conducted with two snipe outer tail feathers. They were attached by wire to a stick and the stick was whirled round. They were also attached to an arrow, which was shot into the sky and fell back to earth.

In each case, they produced the snipe's drumming sound, and it is generally accepted now that that the tail feathers do the trick. It is a very haunting note if you hear it as you walk across the moors at twilight — hard to locate at first, and rather ghostly.

HOWEVER, a long rear-guard action was fought by ornithologists who continued to believe that the drumming was a vocal note, and reports still occasionally appear of snipe apparently drumming while sitting on the ground. Some of these reports may simply be errors of observation or hearing, but it has also been suggested that the tail feathers can be activated in a strong wind.

Nevertheless, a faint air of mystery still hangs about the snipe, and no doubt next spring, here and there, the debate will spark into life once again.

DERWENT MAY

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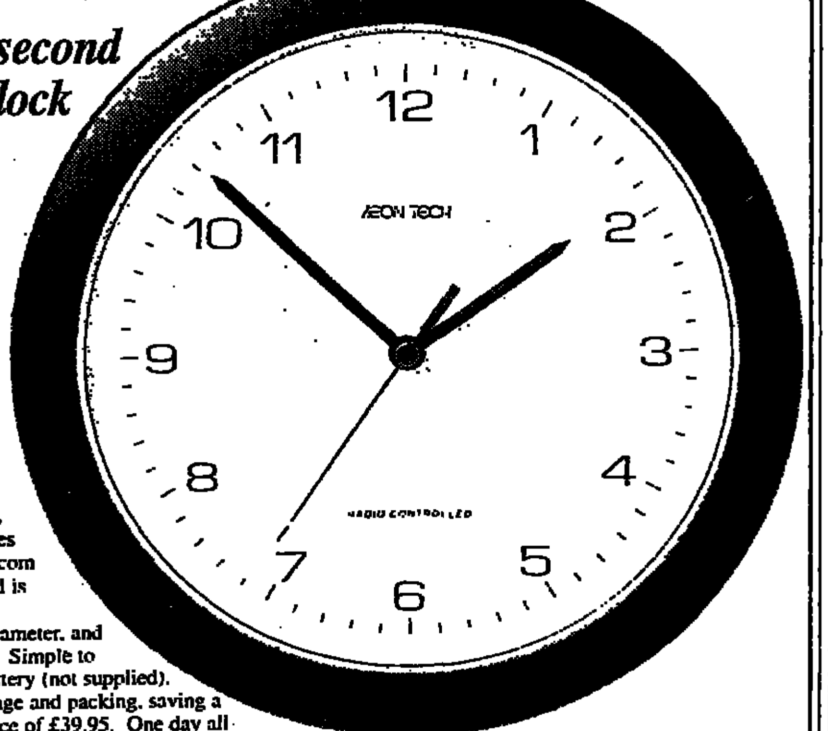

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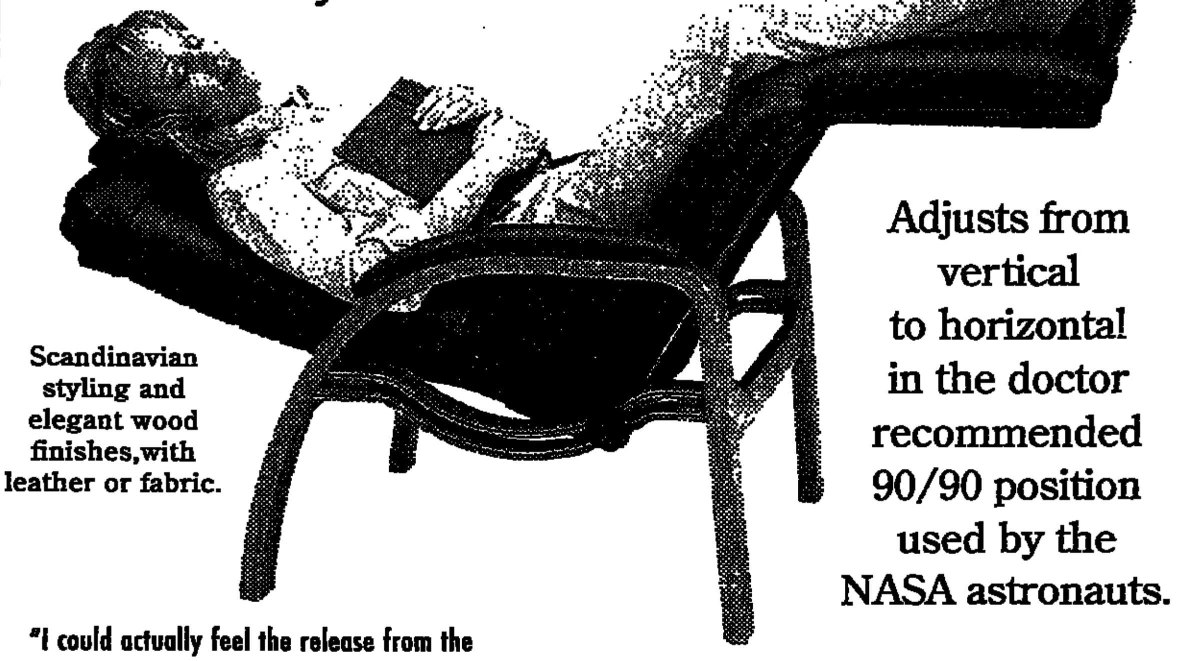

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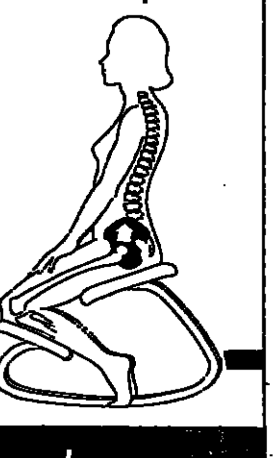

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ADRIAN BROOKS

Let the waters run: a ceremony conducted in the sea

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Alternative services offer a solution for parents who may not be churchgoers but still want their baby baptised

Andrew Brown on non-Christians who want their children christened

Baptism and belief

One of the trickiest moments a priest can expect to face is also one of the commonest: what to do with a couple who live in the area and haven't been seen in church for years, who suddenly turn up and ask, enigmatically, to have their baby "done".

Do they mean they want the child brought up as a Christian? Almost certainly not. About a third of all babies born in this country are baptised but, for the overwhelming majority, this brief wetting will be their last contact with a priest until they are married.

Some priests are understandably weary of this half-hearted approach to their church. "I am not wasting my time performing a meaningless rite for parents who think it's all nonsense and just an excuse for a party," explained one curate I know.

He insists that all baptisms take place in the context of a Sunday morning service, so that parents have some sense of the community they are supposed to be joining.

Others have decided to restrict baptism to those practising Christians who are sincere about it. To provide for the insincere, a loose network of Anglican vicars is experimenting with "naming services", known to their opponents as "anti-christenings."

"It's inappropriate to baptise the children of households who are not effectively believing," says the Rev Andii Bowsher, Vicar of St Augustine's Bradford, a priest who writes his own "anti-christening" services.

Mr Bowsher's technique when parents come to him, is to discover whether they actually want their child to grow up a Christian, with a family and godparents who will nurture it in the faith.

If this prospect frightens them, he offers them his own service, based on the Service of Thanksgiving in the *Alternative Service Book*. "If people are making promises they don't intend to keep, that is wrong," he says.

Mr Bowsher's service starts with a prayer of thanksgiving for the child's birth, and then the parents name their child: "Almighty God," he says, "We present N to you. Look with favour on him/her, help him/her grow ever closer to you and order his/her life to draw him/her to fullness of faith.

"N, may Almighty God deliver you from darkness and lead you into the light of Christ, and the blessing of God: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you, now and always. Amen."

The parents are asked: "Will you try to be trustworthy as a parent, patient and understanding so that your child may always be sure of your love and grow to be secure and responsible?"

The congregation is asked to make wishes on the child's behalf and join in a prayer of blessing. So whatever the language used, there is plenty of God in the service, but no baptism.

This, says Mr Bowsher, is "a better service" for most of the people who come to him, and he encourages *them to call it a* christening — which can cause trouble later, when the parents discover that almost all priests use "christening" only to mean baptism.

> 'Making promises that will not be kept is wrong'

His attitude is anathema to the Bishop of Ely, the Rt. Rev Stephen Sykes, who is chairman of the Church's doctrine commission and suggests that there is a danger of working-class parents being bullied by middle-class priests.

"Clergy who *interrogate* prospective parents like that are bamboozling them. It is an abuse of literacy."

Dr Sykes expresses himself with unusual passion, partly because he recently found himself in a London taxi whose driver had been put through just such an interrogation when he wanted his own baby "done" and welcomed the chance to work off *his feelings on a captive* bishop. "He was taking his hands from the wheel to shake them with fury," said the bishop.

His own solution, when a parish priest, was to offer as godparents members of the congregation, who could fulfil the vows they made to nourish the child in faith. To Mr Bowsher, this is "frankly silly."

At the General Synod this week, new baptismal rites were on the agenda under the the responsibility of the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt. Rev David Stancliffe, who is chairman of the Church of England's Liturgical Commission. He believes that he may have found a way through the minefield, with new vows for the godparents that do not require them to pretend they are zealously Christian.

Simply by wanting to have their children baptised, he argues, the parents and godparents have shown an openness to faith, though many priests would reject that notion on theological grounds.

The dispute goes right to the heart of the Church of England's position in the nation. *The funeral of Diana, Princess* of Wales, demonstrated that people will come to church in emergencies — but most of the spontaneous mourning had nothing particularly Christian about it; and the only bits of the service that made a real impression were those performed by the amateurs, Tony Blair and Earl Spencer.

Anti-christenings are only a small part of a wider problem: how far can the church compromise itself in its efforts to reach a population that neither believes nor wants to?

Remember, God loves the gypsies and so should we

Credo

NIGEL McCULLOCH

The recent arrival of gypsies from Slovakia has inevitably caused social and economic problems for the people of Kent. But, however much we may understand their dismay as they face this unexpected strain on facilities, it is right for all those who believe that each individual is made in the image of God to voice proper and public concern for the way in which this ancient race is so often treated.

Gypsies have long been a source of fascination to Christian clergy. As a former member of the Gypsy Lore Society, I recall that their arrival in Europe around 1100 was first noted by a Georgian monk at Mount Athos. Then, in the 18th century a Protestant preacher discovered their Indian origins. Their often intense faith is deeply rooted in ancient Indian custom, oriental beliefs and Central European demonology. But they have been consistently adept at absorbing the religious customs of the area where they happen to be living.

Thus, from the early 15th century, as they migrated across Europe, we find increasing references to them as good Christians. In England they make their first recorded appearances in Elizabethan baptism registers. Gypsies were also often to be found among those making Christian pilgrimages to holy places. The medieval penchant for journeys appealed to a people who were natural travellers.

Indeed, the nomadic culture of the gypsies has obvious parallels with Judaeo-Christianity — not least in Abraham "the wandering Aramaean", the late journey of the Israelites through the wilderness from Egypt to the Promised Land, and in Jesus who had "nowhere to lay his head". The Acts of the Apostles refers to the early Christian disciples as "The Way".

Many gypsy legends are coloured by biblical stories which were assimilated into their tradition. These legends often have about them the poignancy of a suffering people. Some refer to gypsy origins and, in particular, to God's curse on Cain in Genesis 4:12 *"a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth"*.

Other tales say that a gypsy persuaded Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus and that gypsy smiths forged the nails for the Cross. In fact there is no evidence to show that there were any gypsies in Palestine at that time. Nevertheless, unmistakably woven into so many of these legends is the belief that their nomadic existence and the sufferings and rejection they endure are a form of divine retribution.

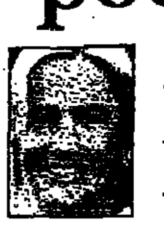
Forced to live by their wits, often guilty of sharp practice and sometimes dishonesty, the gypsies faced increasingly repressive measures and soon became scapegoats for many crimes. Elizabeth I accused them of hiding priests and, in 1563, ordered them to leave the country.

Similar coercive measures in other countries followed. But none has been more terrible than the Nazis' mass sterilisation and murder of the gypsies in this century. Sterilisation and gassing of gypsies was carried out at Auschwitz and in 1945 all gypsies who remained in concentration camps were gassed. It is this that makes so horrifying the words shouted recently by Slovakian skinheads at the gypsies fleeing to Kent: "Go to the gas chambers, gypsy."

Last month, Slovakia's President Vladimir Meciar said: "We should curtail the reproduction of this socially unadaptable and mentally backward population." Such chilling echoes of Nazism must not, I believe, be left unchallenged. Every gypsy, like us, is made in the divine image; and, under God, is our neighbour.

● *The Right Rev Nigel McCulloch is Bishop of Wakefield*

Led along poetic paths



Ruth Gledhill hears the church's new post-millennial service

FOR nearly 30 years, beneath the gilt legend: "Wherein they rejoice with gladness evermore", church leaders and their flock have variously talked and fought over issues such as women priests in meetings of the General Synod of the Church of England.

This week, for the first time, the synod gathered in the circular assembly hall of Church House, Westminster, for a significant departure from usual practice. *The 500-plus members, including* more than 20 bishops and even an Archbishop, decided to celebrate communion together.

The synod was trying out a new service, "Rite 1", designed by a committee of liturgists to replace "Rite A" in the 1980 *Alternative Service Book* when it expires at the millennium. All who detest the *ASB* have been praying that God will lead the church's liturgists down more poetic paths for its replacement. These prayers have been answered in all but one respect. The inelegant response, "And also with you", to the phrase: *"The Lord be with you", has* not only been retained, but must be said twice. The oft-repeated joke about the bishop who told his congregation: "There's something wrong with this microphone", provoking the response: "And also with you", appears not to have been heard by the liturgists.

In place of the usual ranks of bewigged lawyers, church secretaries, bishops, clerks and their minions on the top table was a simple white cloth and two heavy, silver candlesticks.

Small but important changes have been effected to the Nicene Creed. "Men" have come out of "For us and for our salvation" and references to the Holy Spirit as male have been deleted.

In his sermon, the Bishop of St Albans, the Right Rev Christopher Herbert, spoke of our image of God. "When I was a curate and teacher in Hereford, I asked the youngsters what they thought God looked like. Some said he was an old man with a beard. Then a 14-year-old girl said God was a boy of about nine with blond hair.

"It was surprisingly specific so I asked her why. All she said was: 'Because that's what he's really like.' Another boy told me God was not a person at all, but a *corridor full of television* sets all taking to each other." A bit like the synod, we agreed.

As it happens, the synod had already thrown out the proposed new eucharistic prayers, so when we progressed through communion, it was back to the *ASB*, before returning to the new version for the breaking of the bread and the giving of the bread and wine.

Although more flexible than before and better written, the new service is little different to the old. Yet the sense of communion was different, arousing speculation that maybe there was something holy about the synod after all.

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SPIRITUAL HIGH: Sense of unity. ★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: *Tea ruined by long-life milk*

The celebrant: Canon Michael Perham

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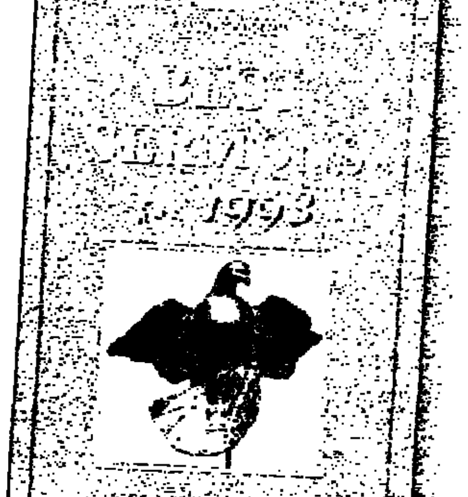

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CHANGING TIMES

Church services tomorrow

The first Sunday of Advent

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 M, Canon J M Barton; 3.15 Carols and readings for Advent.

BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 Cymun Bendigaid; 11 Ch Euch, Darke in F; 3.15 Ch E; 5 Gosber.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 M, Responses: Archer; 11 S Euch, Darke in E; *3.30 Advent procession.*

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Ch Euch; 4 Advent procession by candlelight.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Ch M, Canon Hall; 10.30 Euch, Darke in E; 6.30 Procession and Advent carols.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 11 Service of Music and Readings for Advent; 3.30 E, Wood in E flat No I.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch; 3.30 Service for Advent.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch; 3.15 Advent carol service; 6.30 Sermon & Compline.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch; 3.30 Advent carol service.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 S Euch, Rev I Moody; 6 Advent service.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10 Euch; 11 M; 3.30 Advent procession; 6.30 ES.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11 Litany and S Euch; 3.30 E.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 11 S Euch, Mass for 5 voices (Byrd); 8 Advent procession.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M and Sermon; 11.15 S Euch; 5.30 Advent carol service.

CORK CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 11.15 S Euch; 7 Advent service.

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch; 5 E; 7 Advent procession

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, 4 EP; 6 Advent carol service.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 HC; 3.30 E, Responses: Ayleward; 7 Advent procession with carols.

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch; 6.30 Advent procession.

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch; 11.15 M; 3 E; Wood in E flat; 6.30 Advent carol service.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 Euch, Rev J Hubbard-Jones; 12.15 HC; 6 Advent carol service.

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch; 11.30 M; 6.30 Advent procession.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch; 4 Advent carol service.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch; 3.30 EP; 6.30 Advent Liturgy.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch; 11.15 M; 12.30 HC; 2 Bishop Grosseteste College Advent carols; 3.45 E.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC; 10.30 Euch, Canon M Boyling; 3 Advent service; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L; 8, 9 Euch; 11 S Euch, Darke in F; 12.15 Euch; 3.30 Advent procession; 6.30 E & Sermon.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: *8.45 M;* 9 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Canon J Atherton; 6.30 Readings and music for Advent.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Tallis Short Service; 6 Music and readings for Advent.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M; 6.30 Music and readings for Advent.

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8, 9.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch; 3.30 EP; 6.30 Advent procession with carols.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M; 10.30 Euch; 3.30 E; Collegium Regale (Howells); 6 Procession of Advent carols.

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 S Euch; Messe solennelle (Langlais); 4 Advent carol service.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M; 10.30 S Euch, Canon R Lea; 3.15 E; 6.30 Advent carol service.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch; 11.30 M; 3 Ch E, Responses: Lloyd; 7 Advent candlelight procession.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch; 6.30 Advent procession.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Ch Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley); 6.30 Advent carol service.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.45 Litany; 8 HC; 9.30 C; 11 M, Ireland in F; 6.30 E.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch; 5 EP; 6 Advent carol service.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 C; 11 Solemn Euch, Ireland in C.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch; 11.30 M; 3 E; 5 Advent carol service.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M; 11.15 Euch, Missa brevis (Walton); 3 E; 6.30 ES, Canon D Gray.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 10.30 Sol Mass; 12 Mass; 2.45 Organ Recital; 3.30 Sol V & B; 5.30, 7 Mass.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.35 M; 10 S Euch; 3.30 E, Stanford in C; 6.30 St Swithun's School Advent service.

ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL, Hertfordshire: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11 Solemn Euch; 6.30 Advent procession.

ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL, Aberdeen: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch, Missa Ave Jesu (Oldroyd); 6.30 Advent carol service.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch; 3.30 Advent carol service.

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 Ch M, Ireland in F; 6 Advent procession with carols.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8.30 HC; 10 S Euch, Ireland in C; 11.30 HC; 3.30 Advent sequence of music and words.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 HC, Rev R Frazer.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: *8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Rev J Conway; 3.30* EP; 6.30 Advent carol service.

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Glasgow: 8.30 Euch; 10 S Euch; 12 HC; 6.30 Ch E.

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8.30 Euch; 11.15 S Euch; 3.15 Candlelight Advent procession and carols.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch; 3.15 E, Rev S Oliver, Howells in E; 6.30 Advent carol service.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.

ALL SAINTS, W1: 8 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Mass for 4 voices (Byrd); 4.30 EP; 5.15 LM; 6 Advent carol service.

ALL SOULS, W1: 8 C; 9.30, 11.30 MP, Rev Dr J Stott; 6.30 EP.

THE ASSUMPTION, W1: 11 MS, Missa dixit Maria (Hasler).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 M; 12.15 HC; 6 Advent carols.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, WC2: 11.15 MS; 6.30 ES.

FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30 LM; 11 HM; 12.30 LM; 4.15, 6.15 LM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, SW7: 9 HC; 11 MS; 5, 7.30 Informal Service.

THE ORATORY, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa Transeunte Domino (Handl); 12.30 Mass; 3.30 V & B; 4.30, 7 Mass.

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, EC2: 9.45 HC, Rev Dr L Griffiths; 11 MS.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist): 11 MP for Advent; 6.30 ES.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Ch Euch, Rev P D Schmiege; 3 Advent lessons and carols.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Ch Euch, The Rector; 6.30 E, First Service (Morley).

ST BRIDE'S, EC4: 11 Ch M and Euch, Dyson in F, Canon J Oates; 6.30 Advent carols.

ST CLEMENT DANES, WC2: 11 Ch M, Benedicite (Purcell); 12.30 HC.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, SW1: 11, The Archbishop of Canterbury; 3 Scottish Festival Service; 6.30, Rev W A Cairns.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, EC1: 11 S Mass, The Western Wind Mass (Taverner).

ST GEORGE'S, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Bel' Amfitrit' Altera (Lasso).

ST JAMES'S, W2: 10.30 S Euch, Missa Rorate Coeli de super (Haydn), Rev B Wilson; 6 Advent procession.

ST JAMES'S, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Pr: Sophie Wellbeloved; 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, E15: 11 HC, Rev M Okello; 6.30 Special service for World Aids Day.

ST LUKE'S, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Rev B Newton; 6.30 Advent carols.

ST MARK'S, NW1: 10.30 Euch, Mass for 4 voices (Byrd), Canon P J S Edwards; 3.30 'Advent Observed'.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Rev C Herbert; 11.30 Visitors Service; 2.45 Chinese Service, Rev G Lee; 6.30 Advent carol service.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, W8: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Fr M Banham; 11.15 Ch M; 12.30 HC; 6.30 E.

ST MARY'S, SW1: 9, 10 LM; 11 HM, Canon Haliburton; 6 Sol E & B; 7 LM.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, NW3: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Plainsong Mass, Rev D Jones; 6 Advent carol service.

ST MARYLEBONE, NW1: 8 HC; 11 Ch Euch, Mass for 3 voices (Byrd); 6.30 Advent carols by candlelight.

ST PAUL'S, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Solemn Euch, Missa octavi toni (Lassus), Rev N Dawson.

ST PETER'S, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa Simile est regnum (F Guerrero), Fr D B Tillyer.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M & Sermon, Responses: Byrd, Rev P R C Abram.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 S Euch, Canon D H Wheaton.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, Dyson in F; 3.30 Advent service of lessons and carols.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley St, W1: 11 S Euch, Mass for 5 voices (Byrd).

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch, The Savoy Service (Cole).

QUEEN'S FREE CHAPEL OF ST GEORGE, Windsor Castle: 8.30 HC; 10.45 M & Sermon; 11.45 S Euch, 5.15 E.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, EC4: 8.30, 11.15 HC, Collegium Regale.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Benedictus (Gibbons), Band of the Grenadier Guards; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, SE10: 11 S Euch, Darke in E minor, Rev R Nurton.

هكذا من الأصل

Led along poetic path

Ruth Gledhill

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES AND COURSES

Top to toe festivities

DECEMBER 5-7

Multi-Activity Weekend in Snowdonia. Get some exercise before *Christmas. climbing, abseiling,* white-water rafting and canoeing. With Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083). Price £150, full-board, including equipment and instruction.

Skiing Workshop and Practice. Get ready for the slopes with a day or a weekend at the Calshot Activities Centre, Calshot Spit, Southampton (01703 892077). Price £45 per day, including lunch and equipment.

Fell-Walking Weekends in the Lake District. With Mountain Goat and Countrywide Holidays (0161-448 7112). From Grasmere to the more remote fells. Prices from £133, including accommodation and transport.

A Guided Tour of the Universe; The Natural History of Christmas; Reading Latin documents. Three courses at the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price £117, tuition and accommodation.

Top-to-Toe Hair and Beauty; Stained Glass; Lighting Design. Three courses at the Lancashire College, Chorley (01257 260909). Price £96, all-inclusive.

We Were Amused — Entertainment and Leisure in the Victorian era; The Music of Spain. Two lively courses at the Old Rectory, Fittleworth, West Sussex (01798 865306). Price from £114 residential, £90 non-residential.

Handmade Chocolates for Christmas; A Christmas Bridge Party; Competitive Duplicate Bridge with Partners for Singles; Painting on Silk; You Too Can Sing. All at the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Price per course, £142 residential, £98 non-residential.

Folk Music for Fun. At the Belstead House Education and Conference Centre, Ipswich (01473 686321). From £75-£95, full board.

The Music of Sibelius; Sir Gawain and the Green Knight; Tombs of the Pharaohs. Some of the courses at Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset (01460 55866). From £24 a day or £115 per weekend.

Drawing for the Terrified (painting)! At the Alston Hall Residential College, Longridge Preston, Lancs (01772 784661). From £75, full board and tuition included.

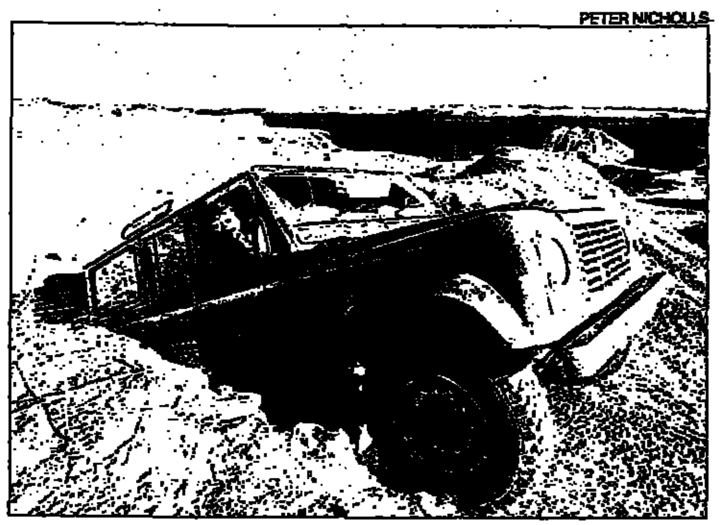
Life Painting in Oils; Blacksmithing for Beginners; Basic Woodworking and Carpentry. At the West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 811301). Prices from £150 residential and £97 non-residential.

Certified First Aid. A useful course for families at Braziers, Ipsden, Wallingford, Oxon (01491 680221). Price £112, tuition and full board.

Arms, Armour and Fortifications of the Middle Ages. At the University of Oxford, Dept of Continuing Education, Rewley House (01865 270360). Price £44, accommodation by arrangement.

From Hastings to Bosworth Field. A history of medieval warfare at Higham Hall, Bassenthwaite Lake, Cumbria (017687 76276). From £112 residential or £72.50 non-residential.

PETER NICHOLLS



Making tracks: off-road driving is available on the Welsh Marches

DECEMBER 12-14

Off-Road Driving; Learn to Ride. Two active weekends on the Welsh Marches with Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083). From £144 to £249 for two nights, depending on activity and accommodation.

Advent Reflection and Celebration. At the Ammerdown Centre, Bath (01761 433709). Prices from £69, all inclusive.

The Natural History of Christmas; Winter Walks. Outdoor courses at Urchfont Manor, Devizes, Wilts (01380 840495). Prices from £99-£104, inclusive.

Life Painting in Watercolours; Floral Craft. Two courses at the Alston Hall Residential College, Preston (01772 784661). Prices from £75-£80 inclusive.

Brace Yourself for Christmas. At Braziers, Ipsden, near Wallingford, Oxon (01491 680221). Price, all inclusive, £92.

Christmas Crackers or The Folklore and History of Christmas. Why do we kiss under the mistletoe? When was Christmas made illegal? At the Burton Manor College, South Wirral, Cheshire (0151-336 6586). Price £98.

The Bardic Mysteries. At Hawkwood College, Stroud, Gloucestershire (01453 759034). Prices from £111 to £119, inclusive.

Wine Appreciation; Christmas Walks and Talks; Yoga; Poetry at Christmas. At the Hill Residential Centre, Abergavenny (01495 333777). Prices from £88-£112.

History of Opera, Beginnings and Monteverdi; Japanese Tamari Balls and Chinese Rice Dumplings; The Dracula Myth; Embroidered Caskets. A range of courses at Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks (01494 890296). Prices from £159 residential and £69.20 non-residential.

Silk Painting; Academic Drawing in Tone; Calligraphy; Adornment of the Garden. All at West Dean College, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 811301). Prices £150 residential and £97 non-residential.

Folk Dancing for Singles. With *HF Holidays* at Malhamdale, Yorkshire (0181-905 9558). Price from £149.

English Cathedrals; Trollope and Hardy, The Way We Write Now. Both at the Maryland College, Woburn, Beds (01525 292901). Prices from £99, inclusive.

Putting People in Pictures; Making a Traditional Teddy Bear; Wines for Special Occasions; The Alexander Technique. At the Old Rectory, Fittleworth, Pulborough, West Sussex (01798 865306). Prices from £114 residential, or £90 non-residential.

The Jacobite Challenge, 1688-1759; Images of Royalty; The War Plays of Euripides; Burne-Jones in context. A range of courses at the University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall (01954 210636). Price £117, inclusive.

Christmas Canapés; Cities of the Baltic; Botanical illustration. All at the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, West Sussex (01243 670392). Prices from £142 residential, £98 non-residential.

DECEMBER 19-21

Paintball Shooting and Adventure Games; Quad Bike Racing. All at Kingsland, Herefordshire, with Acorn Activities (01432 830083). Price £130.

Winter Walking; Circle Dances. Both at the Wedgwood Memorial College, Burlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs (01782 372105). Price, £80 all-inclusive.

Health and Beauty Weekend. At the Springs Health Hydro, Packington, Leicestershire. Pool, sauna, exercise room and beauty treatments: £245 for three nights, full board. Details from Solo's (0181-951 2800).

Brush Up Your Oil Painting Techniques; Calligraphy. Both at the Alston Hall Residential College (01772 784661). Price £75, inclusive of instruction and full board.

A Winter Solstice Celebration. At Braziers, Ipsden, near Wallingford, Oxon (01491 680221). Price £92.

Line Dancing. Learn all the steps to a range of wild Western dances at the Burton Manor College, South Wirral (0151-336 5172). Price £98, inclusive.

Popular Music in Theatre and Film; Painting Birds and Animals. Art courses at the Pendrell Hall College, Staffordshire (01902 434112). From £86.40 residential or £60.50 non-residential.

A Practical Opera Weekend, on *Eugene Onegin* at the Universtiy of Cambridge, Madingley Hall Cambridge, (01954 210636). Price £117, inclusive.

ROBIN NEILLANDS

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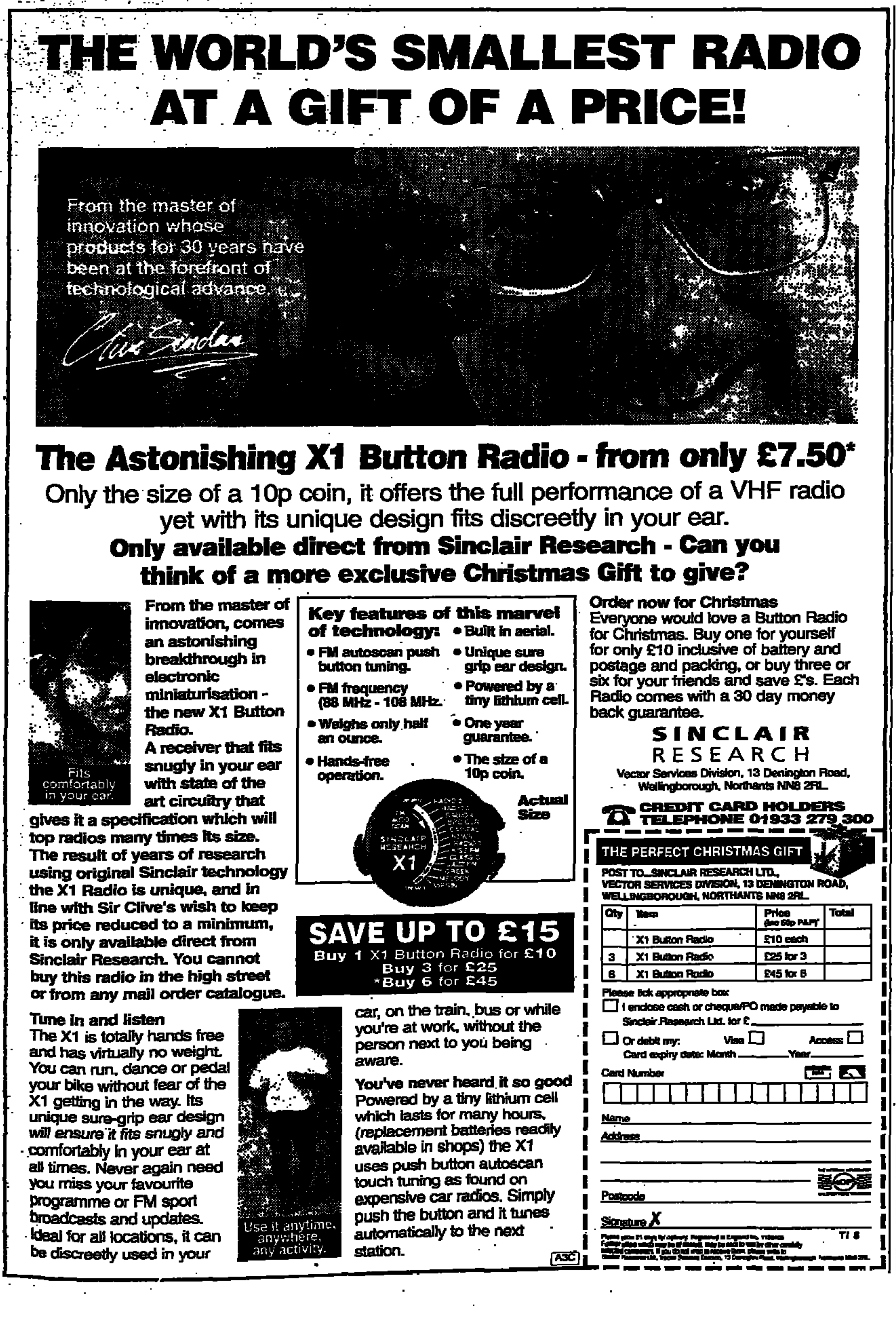

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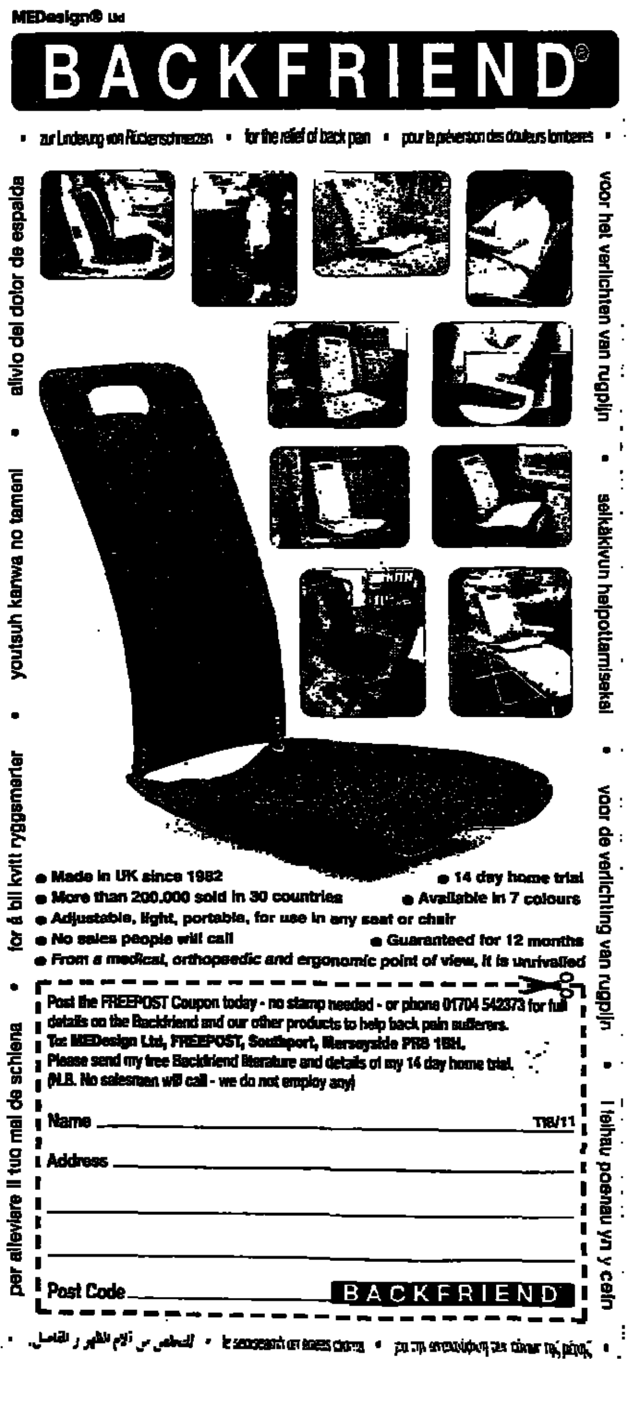

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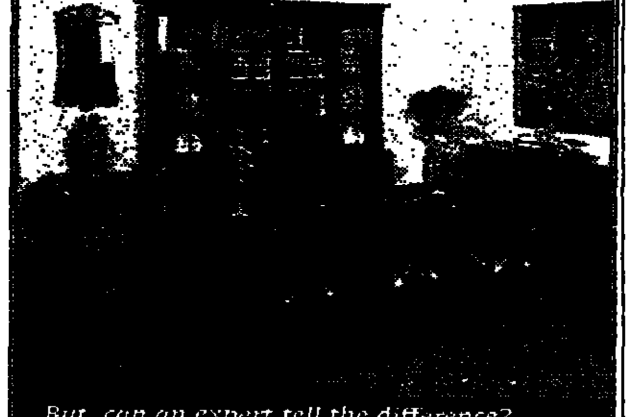

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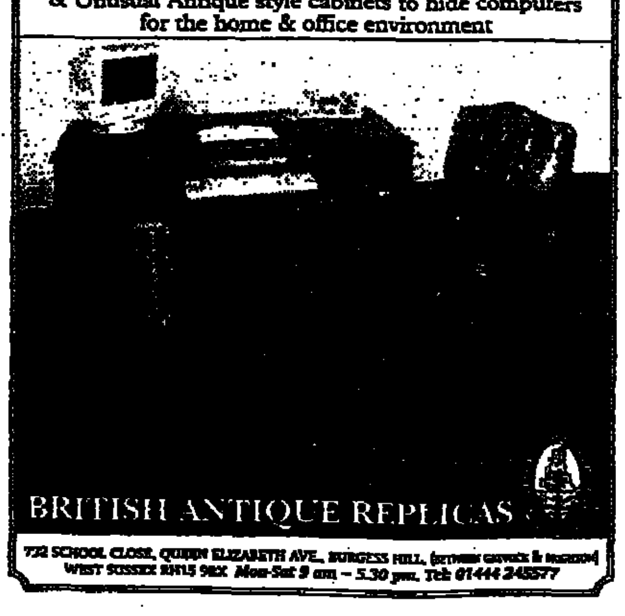

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A cross-Channel Christmas guide

France · 28

THE TIMES

TRAVEL

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I'm too young to go cruising

TONY STONE

A rickshaw driver in Singapore, the last port of call, takes a breather — unlike the author, one of the younger cruise participants, who felt honour-bound to pull her socks up on a hectic Indian Ocean voyage

Lynne Truss

was not prepared for the pace of life on a cruise to Singapore

There is no better way to learn about the stamina of the elderly than to take a cruise at Christmas. Last December I had the great good fortune to join a Swan Hellenic "Christmas in Paradise" cruise from Sri Lanka to Singapore, but made the basic error of embarking in a state of mental and physical breakdown. I *had visions of joining* a deck full of nodding grey heads, eyes closed, with perhaps one ear tuned to a mind-improving lecture. On a gentle and restorative winter sunshine cruise, I could sleep my way towards the new year among people who understood.

However, your average Swan Hellenic cruiser is not a nodding grey head. Your average Swan Hellenic cruiser is busy from dawn to dusk with lectures and excursions, borrowing textbooks from the library, brushing up on earth science and attending concerts. Oh God. Most of them may be old but trust me: a wake-me-up-in-ten-years appeal arouses no sympathy from this focused bunch — no sympathy whatsoever.

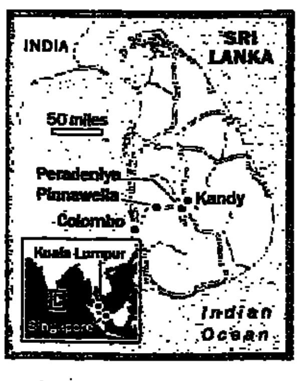
Let us consider the first 36 hours of the trip. On December 22, we arrived at Colombo after a long, overnight flight; we embarked, unpacked, took a bus into Colombo, went for a walk in appalling heat, caught a bus back, took part in a confusing emergency boat drill, dressed up for dinner, and then got up again at *six o'clock in the morning* for an all-day coach trip to Kandy, the ancient capital of the island, three hours inland (and uphill) from Colombo.

Well, that was me done in *already, and we had not* even started.

"Aren't you *tired*?" I would beg fellow passengers on the tour bus. But they were not. Their fitness was such as to make both fiddles and fleas look quite peaky by comparison.

As I understand it, most cruises have compulsory discos and karaoke competitions, so I was right about one thing. On Swan Hellenic's handsome, compact and civilised *Minerva*, you are not dragooned into activities, even the very pleasant ones. You are unmolested entirely.

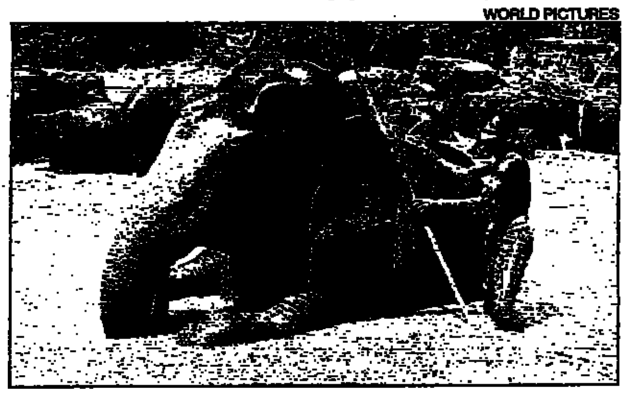
If you wanted, you could spend the whole week just closeted in the card room with a famous bridge player, never moving except to rub your nose in a significant manner during the bidding. (Some people did just that, in fact. They disappeared rather suddenly and were next seen queueing for the flight home.)



You could also spend happy hours just observing other passengers, in particular the celebrities. On Boxing Night, you see, Dame Judi Dench with her husband Michael Williams and daughter Finty were due to deliver a rehearsed reading. You would hardly believe how much excitement this added to each day. "Dame Judi's in the pool!" we all informed each other, in whispers. "And, don't look, Michael Williams is having a pint!"

Yet somehow those shore excursions still beckoned inexorably, and I found myself attending them all. It was something to do with generational pride. If the oldies were willing to clamber on that coach, I felt honour-bound to pull my socks up and clamber likewise. In Sri Lanka we saw orphan elephants at Pinnawella, not to mention the Buddhist shrine, the Temple of the Toth. And we walked around the Botanic Gardens at Peradeniya, buying authentic spices in plastic packets at the gates.

WORLD PICTURES



Elephants were on the itinerary, at Pinnawella in Sri Lanka

It was marvellous and all that, but also oh-so-weird to find ourselves in Sri Lanka, because it was still Christmas, even if it did not feel like it. Back at home, I knew I would have been queueing in Boots to buy last-minute Wallace and Gromit novelty gifts. Buying Wallace and Gromit stuff is what Christmas is all about, surely. A nice bout of flu usually comes into it, as well.

So we had a lot of mental adjusting to do. However, once Sri Lanka was dealt with, at least we could settle down to three days at sea, travelling east towards Malaysia and getting the hang of life on board. The *Minerva* is a lovely ship, decorated to resemble a country-house hotel — all table lamps and chess boards, watercolours, rugs and books. At 128 metres in length, with five decks, the ship is an agreeable size — not so large that you feel anonymous; not so small that it seems crowded or suffocating.

What helps, too, is that whereas other cruise ships enforce a seating plan for dinner, the *Minerva* does not. It allows you to choose between an informal café and a rather plush dining room, and more or less ensures that you sit with different companions every time.

This way, my boyfriend and I met several amusing individuals, but also (it must be said) an astonishing number of identically constituted couples in which the dull husband was an antisocial retired civil engineer and the mousey wife had been driven to seek consolation, of a sadly limited kind, in jewellery.

Everyone on cruises talks about either jewellery or the other cruises they have been on. That's just the way it is. "This is our seventeenth cruise," is the opening gambit of many a conversation, and if you are not a professional four-times-a-year cruiser (and your earrings are unashamed diamanté), you are regarded with a certain degree of suspicion. I had to come clean that I had only cruised once before and that I had not paid for it. Meanwhile, I mentally totted up the expense of four cruises a year and concluded that civil engineering was not pushed half hard enough as a career path when teenagers of my own generation were considering which subjects to take at A level.

At the same time, however, is a life comparing the service on cruise ships really decent employment for the brain? The *Minerva* being Swan Hellenic's new ship (this was its inaugural season), many of the die-hard cruisers wanted to tell us endlessly about the differences from the last one.

"The Greek yoghurt on the *old ship used to be marvellous*," they said. Also, "This yoghurt simply isn't the same any more."

"Really?" we replied at first, with interested smiles. But "Oh, do shut up about the yoghurt," was what we wanted to say by the end. "Get a life. Have a slice of toast, for God's sake."

Oh, those yoghurt bores. Don't remind me. Still, it was good to hear the opinion of the professional cruisers. These are people who know how to behave gracefully, who lap up lectures, but who are also brutally critical if service lapses or excursions disappoint. Luckily only one of the lecturers was dreary (poor chap), but the others were excellent. Dame Judi and family were a big success on Boxing Night; the dance band and the quartet of student singers from the Guildhall were much admired; and if it had not rained on our Christmas Day barbecue, we'd have been in heaven. Admittedly, I heard a woman sneer that the lounge looked like a sofa warehouse. But I noticed she was wearing a quite horrendous home-made frock, so I took no notice.

The shape of the cruise was its most unfortunate aspect. We began with big, tiring, hot bustle in Sri Lanka; then relaxed at sea doing nothing in air-conditioned libraries and lounges; then had a big, tiring bustle at the end visiting Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. Even restored by three days of eating and relaxing, I still found the outings a struggle, so perhaps it is just a temperament thing — I am resistant to doing a country in a day, and I don't like the heat much, either.

The big question, however, is whether you should really holiday like this at Christmas, when your stamina is so low on the gauge that the little red light has come on. Going away for Christmas, you don't escape the associated stresses, you just pile them on early and then need more than ever to collapse. And the trouble with such a good and entertaining trip as a Swan Hellenic cruise is that it is designed to reward a degree of mental alertness. "Leave me to sleep for a hundred years" is not the right attitude to bring along.

No wonder those eager-beaver oldies with no work to do get a lot more out of it than everyone else.

FACT FILE

- Lynne Truss travelled with Swan Hellenic (0171-800 2200).
- The company has a 15-day Oriental Christmas cruise on the *Minerva* this year from Bangkok to Hong Kong.
- The trip, leaving December 14 and returning December 28, includes three ports of call in Vietnam. Prices start at £3,200, rising to £6,195, to include scheduled flights, all meals, excursions, tips and lectures. Theatre, bridge and music are features of the voyage.

Minerva's sundeck

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11 Jan '98	£744	£1055	18 Jan '98	£744	£1055
25 Jan '98	£699	£1055	01 Feb '98	£699	£1055
08 Feb '98	£699	£1075	15 Feb '98	£754	£1075
22 Feb '98	£754	£1075	01 Mar '98	£754	£1075
08 Mar '98	£754	£1075	15 Mar '98	£754	£1075
22 Mar '98	£754	£1075	29 Mar '98	£754	£1075
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JAMES BOND A WEEKEND GUIDE

It's 007 — with a licence to thrill

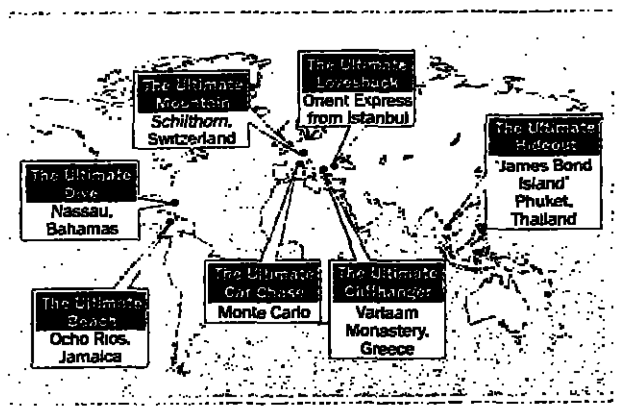
TONY STONE

The Man with the Golden Gun: James Bond Island in Phang Nga Bay, Thailand

RONALD GRANT

Dr No: Ursula Andress and Sean Connery on Laughing Waters Beach, on the north coast of Jamaica; it is now owned by the Government

Bond films need our suave hero, clever gadgets, glamorous girls — and those exotic locations, **Susannah Jowitt** says



Two billion people — two-fifths of the Earth's population — have watched a James Bond film, making it the most successful and long-running film series in the world. Yet the ingredients for such a film are not much more complicated than James Bond's famous Martini.

There is our suave hero, tough on villains one minute, masterful in bed the next. Then there are the Bond girls — beautiful, numerous and preferably with innuendo-laden names such as Pussy Galore, Holly Goodhead and *GoldenEye*'s priceless offering: Xenia Onatopp. Then there are the blatantly product-placing gadgets — from the underwater Lotus in *The Spy Who Loved Me*, which sold out Lotus Esprits for 18 months afterwards, to the laser-beamed Omega watch of *GoldenEye*, which has since featured in a million magazine advertisements.

Finally, it is the wide-ranging locations that have put Bond films on the map. *Tomorrow Never Dies* was filmed in six countries. Some of the more jaw-clanging locations look as if they might be well off the beaten track but the pick of them are nearly all tourist destinations, as we reveal here.

ULTIMATE BEACH

***Dr No*: Laughing Waters Beach, near Ocho Rios, Jamaica**

THE moment in *Dr No* when Ursula Andress as Honeychile Ryder does her Venus-rising-from-the-waves impression is branded into a million minds as the defining moment of the cult that is now James Bond: that combination of beautiful girl, stunning location and Bond wisecrackery. The beach in question was Laughing Waters Beach, near Ocho Rios on the north coast of Jamaica. Its divine conjunction of talcum-powder white sand and brochure-perfect fringe of palm trees is crowned by a freshwater waterfall creating natural whirlpool baths for panting sunbathers.

This made it a popular choice for the first of many times that James Bond was to get out his bucket and spade and get sand between his toes. Seeing it from the sea is apparently the best viewpoint for Laughing Waters Beach — lucky, that, since it is now government-owned and visits require special permission. The added bonus is that from the sea you can ignore (because it is out of sight) the hydro-electric power station that now profits from the waterfall.

Landbound visitors have to satisfy themselves with James Bond beach eastwards along the coast. This popular area, owned as part of the *GoldenEye* estate by the Island Outpost resort and especially popular with cruise-ship daytrippers, is half a mile closer to Oracabessa than Ian Fleming's beachfront house, after which the film *GoldenEye* was named. The house is owned by Chris Blackwell of Island Records but is available for rent (from a mere $21,000 a week) through Island Outpost (0800 614790), as are a number of cheaper properties in Jamaica.

ULTIMATE CLIFFHANGER

***For Your Eyes Only*: Varlaam Monastery, Meteora cliffs, Kalambaka, central Greece**

AROUND AD 985, when the first hermit saw the 60 or so towering, isolated sandstone columns that make up the region of Meteora (from the Greek for "middle of the air"), the fact that he did not have any of Q's gadgets did not stop him clambering 300m up one of the eroded stacks. Nor did it deter more than a dozen subsequent arrivals, who eventually transformed about 24 of these staggering natural rock stacks into airy monasteries.

A thousand years after the first ascent, James Bond turned up to sling his hook at one of the six still remaining: the Varlaam Monastery, in its "St Cyril's" guise as baddie Kristatos's den of trampolining vice. The monks took exception to the film crews and tried to spoil close-up shots by hanging out clothes lines loaded with their washing.

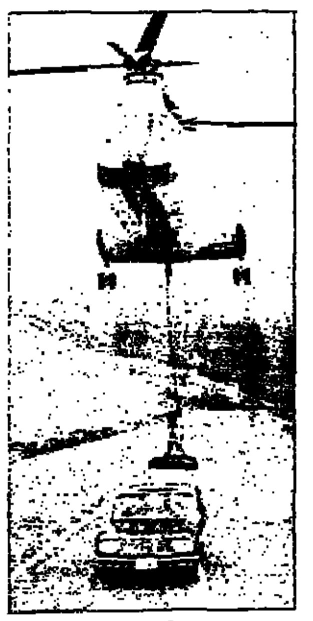
Despite this ecclesiastical interference, the rock-climbing scene alone is nearly ten minutes of nail-biting tension, as a hammy Roger Moore positively *furrows* his brow, intercut with shots of his stunt-double dangling from a rope not once but four times.

Nowadays, we ordinary visitors ascend the easy way — but still panting — up the spiral staircase carved into the rock in the 1920s. Built in 1518, the Varlaam Monastery is perhaps the richest of the Meteora sites in works of art, with some fine 16th-century frescoes and friezes, but none of the stained-glass, wood-panelled splendour of the stage-set interiors so well smashed up by Bond & Co.

Varlaam is closed on Fridays, and opening times on the other sites differ. An entire circuit of all six monasteries is about 20km and takes almost six hours by foot. The monastic dress code is strictly enforced: men must wear long trousers, women must wear below-the-kneee skirts and both must cover their arms.

There are no hotels in Meteora but the nearby village of Kastraki has several good places, including the pleasantly eccentric Kastraki Hotel (0030 432 22 286). Hotel Meteora, a few miles away at Kalambaka, is exceptional but heavily booked (0030 432 22 367).

The mountain eyrie at Schilthorn in Switzerland, left, a location for *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, right



A car-clamping scene from *You Only Live Twice*

ULTIMATE CAR CHASE

***GoldenEye*: the Corniche road, near Monte Carlo**

IN THE lexicon of car chases that pepper James Bond films, this one stands out as the most enjoyable to watch. The competitive chemistry between Xenia Onatopp (yes, she of the nutcracker thighs) and James Bond, even while he is relaxed, are delicious contrasts to the tyre-squealing, zig-zagging, drop-dead gorgeous mountain scenery through which they are racing.

Even in a Ford Cortina you would feel like a rally driver along these curves but if your fancy is to do a James Bond, you can rent a Ferrari at Monte-Carlo Limousine (00 37 792 05 66 00). But perhaps you should learn how to drive appropriately first. Tim Sugden Motorsport, near Leeds (0113252 5145), offers a selection of James Bond Action Days: learn how to slide, spin and crash cars or the skills of evasive driving, or throw in some gun-shooting, speedboating or helicoptering role-play as well — then take home the video to show your family that you, too, can behave like 007. Aimed at their usual corporate clients, group-based prices start from £150 per person. Or call the RAC Motor Sports Association (01753 681736) for the nearest driving courses.

ULTIMATE LOVE SHACK

***From Russia With Love*: the Orient Express from Istanbul**

WITH A Lektor decoding device under one arm and Tatiana, a seduced Smersh agent, under the other, Bond used the Orient Express to leave Istanbul for London. Along the way he had a vicious in-carriage fight with Robert Shaw's ruthless killer and a couple more love scenes with Tatiana, which confirmed his reputation as the screen's most polished lover and the reputation of the Orient Express as one of the world's most romantic trains. And that was before the refurbishment, completed in 1982: the cars seen in the film are identical to the cars now used by the staff, not the sumptuous blue-and-gold cars slept in by today's travellers.

Next year, Bond's route from (and to) Istanbul will be relaunched, taking the train, for the first time since 1962, in the original luxury and on its original 1883 route through Romania and Hungary. It was this route that inspired the train's reputation for mystery, romance, murder and intrigue. And this, plus the inspiration of a luxury train crossing six frontiers, resulted in those Agatha Christie films, 19 books and one piece of sheet music. With its reintroduction to Istanbul — the Byzantine spirit at its best here — the romantic legacy of James Bond rides again on the Orient Express. A return trip from Paris can be yours for £2,785 (0171-805 5100).

ULTIMATE MOUNTAIN

***On Her Majesty's Secret Service*: Schilthorn, Mürren, Switzerland**

LOVE OR hate George Lazenby as the ill-omened first successor to Sean Connery

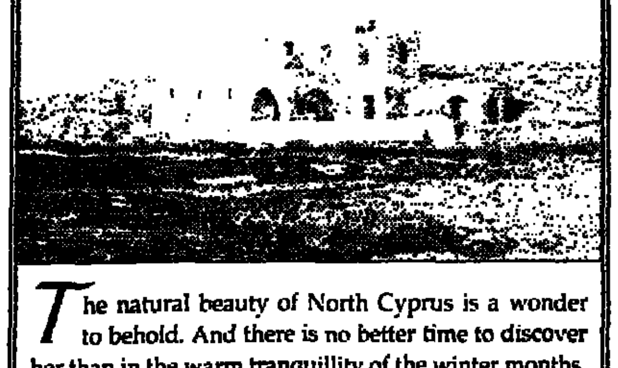
Continued on page 2

TOP SECRET FACT FILE

- ***For Your Eyes Only*: Valaam Monastery, Meteora Cliffs, Kalambaka, Greece.** Filoxenia (01422 375999) will organise packages with accommodation at a three-star hotel in Kastraki, within walking distance of the monastery. A week's stay starts at £370.
- ***Dr No*: Laughing Waters Beach, near Ocho Rios, Jamaica.** Caribbean Connection (01244 355300) has a week's half-board at Jamaica Inn, a five-star hotel in Ocho Rios, for £1,250, based on two sharing. Unijet (0990 336 336) has a week's self-catering at a three-star hotel in Ocho Rios for £599. Laughing Waters Beach is a ten-minute walk away.

Latter-day heroes can test their skills at Engelberg in Switzerland

- ***On Her Majesty's Secret Service*: Schilthorn, Mürren, Switzerland.** Swiss Travel Service (01992 456123 offers a week's half-board at a three-star hotel for £475. Inghams (0181-780 4444) has a week's half-board at the Edelweiss hotel for £344.
- ***Thunderball*: the "Bond wreck" at the western end of Clifton Pier, Nassau.** Hayes & Jarvis (0181-222 7833) has a week's room-only at the four-star Nassau Beach Hotel for £688, based on two sharing. Jetsave (01342 328231) offers a week's room-only at Comfort Suites, a three-star hotel on Paradise Island, for £795. Both are a short drive from Clifton Pier.
- ***The Man with the Golden Gun*: James Bond Island, Phang Nga Bay, near Phuket, Thailand.** Elegant Resorts (01244 897888) has a week's room-only at the Amanpuri, a five-star hotel in Phuket, for £1,760, based on two sharing. Kuoni (01306 740500) offers five nights' B&B at Coconut Village in Phuket, for £549. Excursions to James Bond Island available.
- ***GoldenEye*: The dam above Lake Lucerne, near Engelberg, Switzerland.** Switzerland Tourism (0171 734 1921) can arrange hotel accommodation in Engelberg. Inntravel (01653 628862) has packages with walking tours around Lake Lucerne from April.
- ***GoldenEye*: the Corniche Road, near of Monte Carlo.** Do it James Bond-style with BA Holidays (01293 723100), with two-night's *B&B at Meridien Beach Plaza*, a four-star hotel in Monte Carlo, for £262 — including a helicopter transfer from Nice Airport to Monte Carlo. Cresta Holidays (0161 926 9999) has two-night's *B&B* at Hotel Abela, a three-star hotel in Monte Carlo, for £311: a week costs £482.
- **The new Bond film, *Tomorrow Never Dies*, will have its premiere in London on December 9 and goes on general release on December 11.**



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JAMES BOND: A WEEKEND GUIDE

Spy who loved London

York Membery maps out the agent's favourite haunts and locations

Has there ever been a jetsetting secret agent like James Bond? In his first film, *Dr No*, he headed for the Caribbean. In *From Russia With Love*, he visited just about everywhere but the USSR. And in *GoldenEye* he touched down in Monte Carlo, the former Soviet Union and the Caribbean — again.

Yet as soon as he has thwarted another madman bent on world domination — and seduced the obligatory blonde — he returns to London.

Any tour of London in 007's footsteps has to start in Chelsea, the secret agent's spiritual home — and coincidentally home to his creator, Ian Fleming. The former Reuters journalist and naval intelligence officer put the finishing touches to the first 007 novel, *Casino Royale* — "the thriller to end all thrillers" that he set out to write in 1952 — at Carlyle *Mansions*, with its glorious views of the River Thames, in Cheyne Walk.

The suave spy himself "lived in a comfortable ground-floor flat in a converted Regency house in a square off the King's Road", according to Fleming, who adds: "Parked *under the plane trees was his* 1930 four-and-a-half litre supercharged Bentley coupé, which he kept expertly tuned so he could do a hundred when he wanted to." Not in today's Chelsea, though, that's for sure.

But which square? The mystery has had Bond boffins racking their brains for years but most now agree that Markham Square, a leafy enclave off the *King's Road lined by Georgian-style terraces, about* ten minutes walk from Carlyle Mansions, is the likely real-life model for 007's fictional residence.

Continue to Sloane Square, and take the Underground two stops east to Pimlico. Just around the corner is Vauxhall Bridge, which offers a superb view of MI6's striking £150-million sandstone and green glass headquarters south of the Thames. The *Terry Farrell-designed structure is where Pierce* Brosnan's Bond was branded "a sexist, misogynist dinosaur" by Judi Dench's M in *GoldenEye*.

Cross the bridge and, if you're feeling particularly plucky, press the intercom and ask whether the building is indeed MI6's headquarters. Don't be surprised, though, if your inquiry is met by a frosty silence. Though one look at the building, which has *more cameras on its walls than* a *Hollywood studio*, should tell you this ain't no ordinary office block.

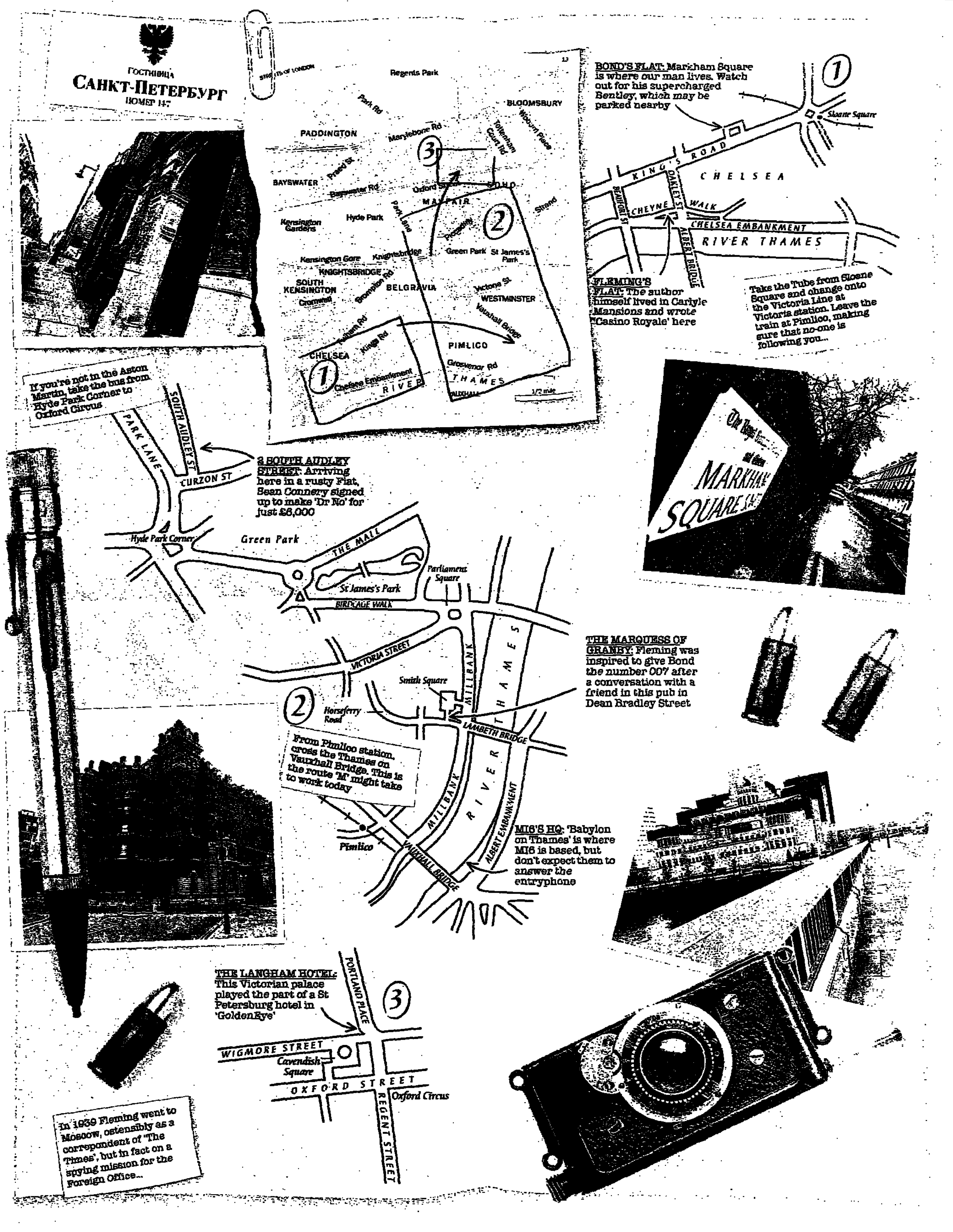
Walk along the Albert Embankment to Lambeth Bridge and make for Dean *Bradley Street* on its north side, *midway* between Smith Square and Horseferry Road. Here you will find the Marquis of Granby, the public house where Bond's 007 code number was dreamt up — inspired by a chance conversation betweeen Fleming and a drinking partner who had been given the number DMZ 7 when he was recruited into the Bevin Boys in the *war*. *Outside the hostelry is a sign boasting that it* serves "the perfect G&T" — but shouldn't it be bragging about its vodka martini?

The West End yields a further Bond link: head up Millbank to Parliament Square, cut through St *James's Park* and Green Park to Hyde Park Corner, walk down Curzon Street and turn left into South Audley Street. In 1961, Sean Connery, then a *struggling Scottish actor, pulled up outside the* offices of Eon Productions, at 2 South Audley St, in a rusty little Fiat and signed up to make *Dr No* for a paltry £6,000 — nowadays not enough to buy a Fiat, let alone an Aston Martin.

Finally, take a *bus* from Hyde Park Corner to Oxford Circus. A few minutes walk north is the elegant Langham Hotel, dating back to 1865. Opened by the Prince of Wales *and once the height* of Victorian chic, it doubled up for a St Petersburg hotel in *GoldenEye* — the producers simply replacing the Union Jack, Stars and Stripes and European Union flags with a Russian Federation standard.

If the next 007 film, *Tomorrow Never Dies*, does anywhere near as well as *GoldenEye*, Bond's London could soon become as big a hit with tourists as Sherlock Holmes's London. Even if he remains the spy world's leading jetsetter.

● Pierce Brosnan: The Biography, *by York Membery, is published by Virgin, at £5.99*



BOND'S FLAT: Markham Square is where our man lives. Watch out for his supercharged Bentley, which may be parked nearby

FLEMING'S FLAT: The author himself lived in Carlyle Mansions and wrote 'Casino Royale' here

Take the Tube from Sloane Square and change onto the Victoria Line at Victoria station. Leave the train at Pimlico, making sure that no-one is following you...

If you're not in the Aston Martin, take the bus from Hyde Park Corner to Oxford Circus

2 SOUTH AUDLEY STREET: Arriving here in a rusty Fiat, Sean Connery signed up to make 'Dr No' for just £6,000

THE MARQUESS OF GRANBY: Fleming was inspired to give Bond the number 007 after a conversation with a friend in this pub in Dean Bradley Street

From Pimlico station, cross the Thames on Vauxhall Bridge. This is the route 'M' might take to work today

MI6'S HQ: 'Babylon on Thames' is where MI6 is based, but don't expect them to answer the entryphone

THE LANGHAM HOTEL: This Victorian palace played the part of a St Petersburg hotel in 'GoldenEye'

In 1939 Fleming went to Moscow, ostensibly as a correspondent of 'The Times', but in fact on a spying mission for the Foreign Office...

Pictures by **Gill Allen.** Hand-held KGB surveillance camera courtesy of **H. Keith Melton,** author of *The Ultimate Spy Book*, published by Dorling Kindersley, £16 99. Propelling pencil pistol courtesy of the **Imperial War Museum**

Continued from page 25

(apparently, Diana Rigg used to eat garlic before her love scenes with Lazenby). James Bond's *ski scenes in this film* set the tone for the ski bonanzas in *The Spy Who Loved Me* and *A View to a Kill*.

Most dramatic of all was the *moonlight flit from the mountain* eyrie of Blofeld (played by Telly Savalas) at Schilthorn, a year after it was built as a real-life summit-house in 1967. Blessed with a *panorama of* more than 200 mountain peaks, a giddying hour-long cable-car ride (from the bottom of the valley) and a summit of nearly 3,000m which towers over any cloud on a foggy day, the Schilthorn was the perfect hangout for any megalomaniac bent on world *domination*.

Nowadays, with the imitation blood trails washed away, the fake bodies left in Bond's wake resurrected and the helicopter landing *pad transformed* into a sun terrace, the Schilthorn is a 360-degree revolving panoramic restaurant catering for more than 400 skiers in the winter and vista-seeking hikers in the summer.

Visitors come up from Interlaken, the mountain village of Gimmelwald or the car-free ski resort of Mürren.

On bad-weather days, a ten-minute video — scenes from the film — revives memories of James Bond's adventures on this particular mountain; or why not just pack away a Martini *or three in the James* Bond Bar?

WEBWORLD: JAMES BOND

WHERE DO I START?

The cars, the films, the actors: they're all detailed on *http://pages.prodigy.com/bond/movies.html* while *http://shiftcontrol.com/archive/special/bond/plug-bondfiles.html* is a British-written brief summary of the leading actors and best *bits of all the Bond films*.
http://www.TomorrowNeverDies.com is the homepage of the upcoming Bond, with pictures and news bulletins.

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http://www.mgmua.com/bond/home.html is the official James Bond homepage: scorned by true Bondophiles (beware the daily quote takes five to ten minutes to download) but packed with merchandising: like the CD-Rom: "The Ultimate James Bond. An Interactive Dossier." Those with expanding wallets can visit *http://www.jetsetonthenet.com/main/html/introduction.html* for Ferraris, high-tech goodies and the chance to rent your own Bahamian island.

TRAVELLER'S TALES:

http://www.wolfe.net/hmss007/ has the Greatest Fan's site, Kimberley Last's, and and has links to the Ultimate Collection of Fan Pages, like Club James Bond.

MUGGING-UP

With over 200,000 sites, *the Internet really* is your virtual oyster for James Bond fans. *http://www.concentric.net/Volante/* is a good place to start, with comprehensive links to all things 007-ish. *www.moviehq.com/reviews/index.htm contains short reviews:* start here at *Diamonds Are Forever*, then link through to the entire lexicon. The randomly named *http://poky.srv.net/duncan/007info.html* is a smorgasbord of Bondiana, *including a card game*.

"WELL I NEVER!"

At *http://www.universalexports.net/* find out that Burt Reynolds could have been . . . and more. Be shaken, not stirred by Ian Fleming's Martini recipe at *http://www.axionet.com/key/recipe4.html*

SUSANNAH JOWITT

ULTIMATE DIVE

***Thunderball*: the underwater fight scene: the "Bond wreck" at the western end of the Clifton Pier, Nassau, the Bahamas**

OUT OF the five James Bond movies filmed in this "Underwater Hollywood" corner of the Bahamas (*the first ever* deep-sea film, the original *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, was filmed here), it is the underwater fight sequence in *Thunderball* that has fans reaching for their respirators every time.

To film these and the other *underwater scenes took four* months and involved the intricate building of a fibreglass and scaffolding life-size model of a Vulcan bomber plane.

Thirty years later, most of the fibreglass has gone but the plane, with *its landing* gear and rubber tyres miraculously intact, is now a colourful riot of sea fans, soft sponges and corals, peopled by angel fish, grouper and other tropical sea creatures.

With the remake of *Thunderball — Never Say Never Again* — the Bond team, including the diving veteran Sean Connery (Roger Moore *never even turned up for the* scuba scenes filmed here for *For Your Eyes Only*), sank another wreck, that of the *Tears of Allah* boat.

These coral-infested relics make up the "Bond wreck" — *a popular diving site at* Clifton Pier, west of Nassau, on the tax-free, gambler-friendly island of New Providence.

This trip is offered by companies such as Stuart's Cove (001 242 362 4171) as part of a two-dive package. For $65, you get to be James Bond, then go further afield to "The Wall", where the shallow seabed, barely 15m deep, suddenly *falls away to an abyss of* 2,000m.

Now *that* sounds considerably scarier than a few underwater hoodlums giving our James a bit of a hard time.

ULTIMATE HIDEOUT

***The Man with the Golden Gun*: James Bond Island, Phang Nga Bay, Phuket, Thailand**

HUGE limestone cliffs and weird rock formations jut *out of a turquoise sea* as Christopher Lee tries to outwit James Bond in this most surreal and spectacular of all the Bond film locations.

Huge solar panels leap *out of the towering island* opposite and speedboats and planes slalom in and out of the countless rocky steeples in Phang Nga Bay, *near Phuket in* Thailand. It is a scenario re-enacted in the forthcoming *Tomorrow Never Dies* as Pierce Brosnan and sidekick race to find baddie Carver's Stealth boat.

The reality is just as impressive, although James Bond Island (as the locals affectionately call it) is rather *smaller than you imagine* from the scale that is presented in *The Man With the Golden Gun*.

Nevertheless, the sheer number of dramatically proportioned islands is *staggering*. All are *precipitous* — although only a few have the pearl-dust sandy beaches of James Bond Island — and all are topped *by an untidy green fringe* of clinging tropical vegetation.

And, for all its imagined remoteness, the bay is a mere hop and a skip from mainstream tourist haunt Phuket, just up the coast. *Some might prefer the* backpacker simplicity of staying at the Muslim fishing village of Kopanyi, attached to one of the Phang Nga islands.

Everything is on stilts, even the football pitch: if a ball is kicked over the goal line, the goalie has to dive into the sea to retrieve it . . .

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The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Tom Whitelaw, of Bearsden in Scotland

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SKI WEEKEND: FESTIVE RESORTS

TONY STONE

Village square in Whistler, British Columbia, where the glacier slopes will definitely be white for the holiday season. Spend a luxury Christmas week here followed by the new year week in Hawaii for a £2,565 per person

We all dream of a white Christmas

SKISHOOT

Downhill all the way: Ste-Foy, near Val d'Isère, is a good place to learn to ski off-piste

SKISHOOT-OFFSHOOT

That time of year again: Father Christmas takes to the slopes with some young fans

WORLD PICTURES

Absolutely guaranteed to be frozen white: Whistler

DOUG SAGER

GETTING away over the jolly season poses sobering problems, and careful planning is necessary if your skiing holiday is to go off like a Christmas cracker. This winter is difficult because the phenomenal boom in the skiing market is already exhausting capacity. Many firms report bookings running 100 to 500 per cent ahead of last year. There is little accommodation left for the new year week, although Christmas is selling a bit more slowly.

This year, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve and the morning after all fall outside the package turn-over days of Saturday and Sunday, which means nobody will be forced to travel on the most important days of the holiday season.

Still, the dream of a white Christmas means that almost every resort in the Alps and America will be crammed to the rafters. At no other time of the year are pistes more crowded. The dilemma for keen skiers is *where* — at any price and any distance — snow quality can be guaranteed and queueing will be at a minimum.

Families with small children, singles on tight schedules and couples looking for a romantic hideaway away from the crowds all face problems finding a holiday tailored to their needs.

In recent years, a number of holiday firms and so-called independent consultants have made a speciality of advising those who do not fit into the typical package ski holiday.

I faxed 20 such firms requesting suggestions for snowboarders, for *families, for escapists and* for those for whom money is no object. Some firms responded within minutes, notably Snow Line, Ski Weekend and Erna Low.

Perhaps an indication of just how good *business is this season, is that five of the* better known specialists had not bothered to respond within a week.

From the firms which submitted specific offers, I have chosen the most unusual and interesting. All were available at the time of going to press.

AFFORDABLE FOR FAMILIES

PERHAPS the simplest way to avoid expense and overcrowding is not to stay in a resort at all. Bourg-St-Maurice is a French market town with no frills but it does have a TGV railway station (a terminus for the Eurostar) and it lies in the heart of the Tarentaise, home to the Trois Vallées, La Plagne *and Val d'Isère. For everyday* skiing, the three ski areas of Les Arcs can be reached directly from town within seven minutes via Bourg-St-Maurice's modern funicular. Erna Low (0171-584 2841) is offering the best budget deal I have found: a self-drive package with bed-and-breakfast accommodation at the English-run Petite Auberge, December 20-27, for £170 per person, ferry included.

For a more in-depth study of *French rural life, and the* Alpine cable car with the shortest queues, Vaujany is an excellent family choice, both for the intermediate slopes just above the village and for its cable car, which rises directly into the extensive skiing of Alpe d'Huez. Ski Peak (01252-794941), the only British operator *in Vaujany and highly* rated for family values, has Christmas week (December 20-27) availability in its Chalet Rostaing at £558, including flights and half-board.

Ski Esprit is the firm which, in my view, best puts parents on the piste with peace of mind, offering the most professional childcare, the best guarantees and non-smoking chalets. Morzine in the Portes du Soleil has toy trains which shuttle children to the lifts. Ski *Esprit has money-back guar*antees for its nursery services and for ski-school tuition. Chalet Catherine has a nursery in the chalet. Ski Esprit (01252-616 789) is offering children under 18 half-price and their own separate rooms when booking with parents, paying £489 for flights and half-board during the week December 21-28.

Young children have been known to refuse to go on Christmas skiing holidays, afraid they will miss Santa. That will not happen with the Christmas offer suggested by *both Snow Line and Skiers* Travel Bureau. Kids can visit the saint at home at "Santa's favourite ski resort": Levi in Lappland. Ice fishing, husky dog and reindeer safaris should help to keep everyone interested, and snow is guaranteed.

Snow Line (01858-433 633) and Skiers Travel Bureau (01132 666876) offer Hotel Sirkantahti in Levi, Finland, December 21-28 for a total price of £1,559 (for two adults plus one child) including half-board and flights, with free ski-hire and ski-passes for children *under seven.*

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

SNOWBOARDERS accept no substitutes. With their on-mountain snowboarding escorts (equipped with video cameras), Playstations in the chalets and Burton boots, boards and bindings all available for test, Chalet Snowboard is the only choice (40 per cent of guests are aged over 30). Chalet Snowboard (01235-767 575) has accommodation in Morzine and Avoriaz, December 20-27, at £425 including flights and half-board.

Romantic couples looking to *hide away from the pistes in* luxury are in luck. Tailor-made specialist Momentum Travel has found a four-star hotel — indoor pool, sauna *and each room furnished with* antiques — in Cogne, a village on the Sant'Orso snowfields below Italy's Gran Paradiso national park. It is only two *hours from Geneva or Turin* and the hotel owner will pick you up in his 1920s limousine. Downhill skiing is limited but the area is a cross-country paradise. Momentum (0171-371 9111) quotes a seven-day package including flights, car hire and half-board for £899 per person.

Learning to ski off piste could not be less of a strain, staying at what I regard as the loveliest chalet in the Alps, and being taught by two in-house guides from the famous *Zimmer brothers' Top Ski* centre. Ste-Foy is near Val d'Isère, but the hamlet has huge and easy off-piste sectors unvisited by experts. Yellowstone chalet is a new residence featured this season by The Ski Company (0171-730 9600). Christmas week (December 21-28) is available at £1,687 per person including flights, meals, guides and Christmas dinner.

Single and looking to ski with somebody serious? The weekend and off-piste specialist *Ski Weekend has put* together Christmas and new year packages with the best skiing in the Alps. The last Swissair flights (2pm) on either December 24 or 31 have you in Chamonix two-and-a-half hours later. Four days of skiing follow: with an introduction to off-piste skiing by Chamonix master guide Roland Stieger preceding helicopter skiing, descents of couloirs like the Pas de Chèvre or expeditions down the scenic Vallée Blanche, according to *conditions and ability* levels. Business-class return has you back in London on Monday evening (8.45pm). The Ski Weekend (01367-241 636) price for either programme is £659, including flights, half-board hotel accommodation and guiding.

EXOTIC AND EXCLUSIVE

FOR A twist on the white *Christmas theme, Ski the* American Dream proposes the guaranteed white glacier slopes of Whistler in Canada for Christmas, followed by the *white sands of Hawaii for the* new year. Though Ski the American Dream neglects to note it, there is snow skiing in Hawaii, although you have to climb a volcano first.

Ski the American Dream (0181-552 1201) has availability for its December 20-January 5 package excluding meals, with seven nights at Chateau Whistler and nine at the Halekulani on Waikiki beach, all transfers and flights, at £2,565 per person.

Cowboy Christmas at your own private ranch outside Crested Butte, Colorado, includes horse riding and snowmobiling. The food and accommodation are at the top *of the range but* the ranch is strictly no smoking. Crested Butte's nearby skiing is good for all abilities, and lifts are half-price for Buckhorn guests. Ski Equipe (0161-440 0010) has availability for seven, ten and 14-day packages departing on December 20 or 27, from £1,095 to £1,595 per person for flights and some evening meals.

However, for me there is only one choice for the serious skier over the holiday period, and that is helicopter skiing in *Canada. James Orris offering* the ultimate powder playground: 1,000 square miles of wilderness to be shared by only one private group. Although not normally operating this early in the season, Crescent Spur in northern British Columbia will open its luxury lodge and fire up the helicopter for any select group of between eight and 14 skiers. James Orr (0171-580 7883) bases prices on a Sunday to Saturday package including meals and guiding and a minimum 60,000ft of skiing — at £1,680 per person but not including flights from Britain.

It's all a question of vertical drops

ALTHOUGH the Alps are *still waiting for snow. American* ski resorts open this weekend for Thanksgiving, traditionally the first big skiing vacation of the year. *Doug Sager writes.*

Vail Resorts has just announced that all ski passes purchased at Vail will cover five resorts. Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge and Keystone, all owned by Vail Resorts, were the four that were previously included. Now the separately owned Arapahoe Basin has been added to the ticket.

Aspen Skiing Company apparently retains its number one title in the United States, after a period of confusion between the various resort areas over which is the highest and longest.

Construction this season of a new drag lift into the *Cirque area at Snowmass,* one of four resorts owned by the Aspen Skiing Company, prompted the Aspen conglomerate to launch a public *relations campaign boasting* both the longest vertical drop — 4,406ft — and the highest, lift-served skiing *terrain at 12,510ft.*

Go for it: snowboarding

Jackson Hole continues to advertise itself in press material as having the longest continuous vertical drop (4,139ft), *but this claim is* denied by Aspen Skiing Corporation. Big Sky in Montana has a longer vertical drop than Jackson Hole, at 4,180ft, but *admits that* this length cannot be skied in one descent, an *additional chairlift being re*quired for the lowest portion of the pistes.

Earlier this week, Aspen Skiing Company informed me that it had "made a mistake" and was withdrawing its claim to the highest skiing. Breckenridge advertises skiing at 12,998ft. Loveland puts its top skiing at 13,010ft. And Arapahoe Basin claims skiing at 13,050ft.

However, upon closer examination of piste maps it appears *that all these Colo*rado resorts require hiking on foot beyond the lift systems to access these peak areas. Snowmass's Cirque lift will carry skiers all the way up to 12,510ft without walking, and this lift is scheduled to run at least 60 days during the season.

"So, *I guess that puts us* back at the top after all, for highest lift-served skiing. At least, I think so," was the final word on the subject *from the Aspen Skiing* Company.

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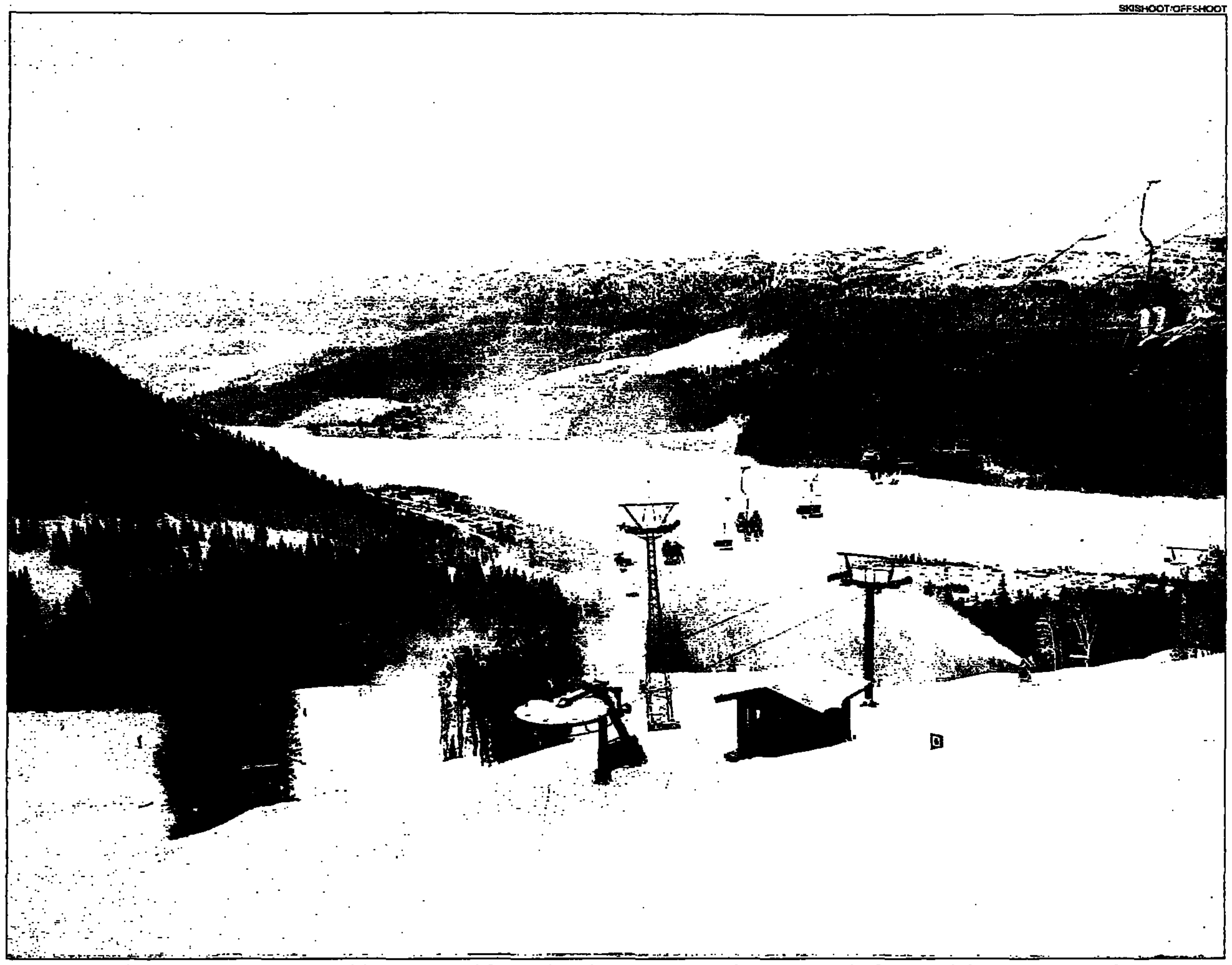
SKI WEEKEND: TAKING THE CHILDREN

TRAVEL INK

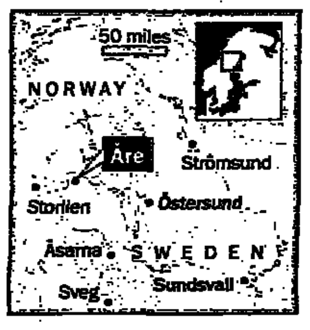
SKISHOOT/OFFSHOOT



Swedes tend to be more chunkily wrapped than Alpine skiers (above left), and while T-bars predominate on the slopes, redeeming features include uncrowded runs and superb views

Sweden's well-kept secret

George Brock and his family warm to the friendly, uncrowded, albeit cold, resort of Are



"I'd like to live here," said my 14-year-old son as we rested on our skis and gazed out towards Norway over glittering mountain peaks. Paddy Brock does not always pay this kind of compliment to holiday destinations. He has been to California, Hong Kong, the Mediterranean and all over Europe without ever having been heard to express a desire to settle in any one of those places.

But Paddy, in common with *the rest of the family, loved* Sweden. If you tell people that you are off to ski in Sweden, they simply look puzzled and assume that you have muddled your Scandinavians and actually mean that you are going to Norway. Or they think you are going just to ski cross-country. But the mountain range which runs down Norway also stretches across the border here and there. Nestling self-effacingly halfway up Sweden are a cluster of downhill resorts barely known to British skiers.

The secret remains well-kept for obvious reasons: Swedish winter sports are reckoned to be cold, dark and expensive. Two Swedish resorts occupy exactly four pages *out of 387 in the current* brochure from Crystal, one of only two big British tour operators who bother with the downhill skiing in Sweden. Direct charter flights to Ostersund, the convenient airport, only begin this year; we had to change planes in Stockholm.

You cannot take as cheap a skiing holiday in Sweden as you can in the French Alps. I think that Sweden's extra advantages outweigh the cost but you should assume, as a rule of thumb, that Swedish skiing will cost you 20 per cent more all round.

And the weather can be painfully cold. We went late in the season but still experienced two days (out of six) when the wind cut the visibility to a few yards on all but a fraction of the mountain. You do not see many slinky ski suits on Swedish pistes; your fellow skiers dress for Arctic weather in awesomely chunky anoraks and woolly hats.

And your fellow skiers *are* almost all Swedes. After the Identikit facilities and decor of the multinational mass resorts in the Alps, the Swedish resort of Are never let us forget that *we were in a distinctive* country.

Our apartment-hotel was on the edge of a village. A handsome horse strolled and grazed in the snowy field behind the hotel. Small, well-wrapped schoolchildren skied to school past our back windows; their smaller brothers and sisters came by in push-chairs on skis.

So unaccustomed are they to foreign visitors in Are (pronounced "aura") that many signs carry no language but Swedish. It's not a problem: almost everybody speaks some English.

Courtesy comes as standard in rural Scandinavia. When snowboarders first appeared and threatened to disturb the calm, earnest discussions were held in each resort to defuse the threat of chaos on the slopes: snowboarders now have their own areas, and politically correct snowboarding is taught in the local schools.

The pistes available in Are would satisfy all but black-run skiers for a week. The runs are well looked after, long and uncrowded; the views into Norway are gorgeous. They have 70km of cross-country tracks.

To cap all this contentment, Sweden was revealed to me for the first time as a country of high-class cuisine. On a standard four-star hotel package, we ate meals each night which would cost £30 a head if served at a London brasserie. And during the day we were expertly taught by Tony Koning, the English-born head of the local ski school.

People used to mainland European resorts or the United States will find things to irritate them. "If I could find the person who invented the T-bar drag lift, I'd shoot him," said Ollie as he dug himself and his skis out of the snow he had fallen into.

Are has only a handful of chair lifts; most are T-bars. To Swedes, most of whom have skied for years, this is no problem; to the less experienced, it *is* a pain. The ski school is so unused to inexperienced adults that complete beginners have to spend their first morning hanging around without getting on skis until after lunch. Ski school in Are operates in the early afternoon *and that's that.*

But these are minor quibbles, and the skiing is anyway only part of the picture. One afternoon we went to visit a herd of reindeer which graze near the wooden huts built by the once nomadic Sami herdsmen. Close up, reindeer are smaller and gentler than you would expect: less like deer and more like small cows with pale coats the colour of drinking chocolate.

The next afternoon we took a sleigh ride pulled by teams of *ferociously energetic huskies.* We shot out of the pine trees and swished across a frozen lake lit by a pale setting sun.

We fancied the advertised reindeer sleigh-ride as well but when I wanted to book, the mustard-keen man from Crystal Holidays looked a little queasy. "Er, I think the reindeer sleigh may be off," he *said, explaining that a recent* trip had been abandoned when the reindeer grew too obstreperous to control.

The only much-touted local attraction that none of us wanted to try was skiing at night. Are makes much of the many kilometres of downhill and cross-country pistes which are floodlit well into the evening. The locals claim that the lights shine so brightly on the mountainside that the national security agency in Washington once asked the Swedish government about the odd glow that was being picked up by the American spy satellites.

But the idea of skiing in the evening leaves me cold. Or at *least it would have left me very* cold indeed if I had ever abandoned the cosy warmth of our apartment.

PADDY BROCK, 14

"ARE is quiet but brilliant: like a genius sitting at the back of a class without saying a word. It is uncrowded but not at all dead. The ski school was like the resort: small. They have good techniques for making one recognise and solve problems with one's skiing. When the weather is bad, it is impossible to see and hard on your face. The *snow blows across the* path of the T-bar lifts and no track is left to ski in. On one lift, one couple in four fell off — often taking people behind them down as they went. There are lots of other things to do: husky-sleighs, skidoos, reindeer sleighs and paragliding. The reindeer sleigh sounds more dangerous than paragliding."

I could live here: Paddy Brock, left and brother Ollie on a sleigh ride

OLLIE BROCK, 12

"HUSKY dogs look nothing like I expected them to. They look like big furry dogs who eat ordinary diets: the sleigh-pullers in Sweden are *small but* eat enough to kill a normal dog. One realises how different Swedish skiing is compared to the average French resort when you look back from the top of the slope: empty. Or when *you see a ski instructor* answering his mobile phone on the T-bar lift, or while skiing down a slope. In Are, everyone speaks English and is friendly. I was skiing along one day and by mistake left my *pole behind. Four* snowboarders behind me all had a go at picking it up. The fourth succeeded and handed it to me!"

Christmas cheer

FACT FILE

- George Brock travelled with Crystal Holidays (0181-399 5144) to Are. Besides skiing packages for the adventurous in Slovenia, Georgia and Bulgaria, Crystal also operates to Sweden's largest ski area, Sälen. A seven-day stay in a four-bed apartment in the Hotel Renen costs £459 per person in high season. Hire of skis, sticks and boots adds £83 per skier; a six-day high season lift pass costs £105.
- Are has 89 runs, totalling 82km. Despite being so far north, they use man-made snow on 20 of those pistes. There are 70km of cross-country tracks. The village of Are is 400m above sea level and the average temperature in February is -7C, in March -3.8C.
- Are also offers husky sleigh rides, paragliding on the frozen lake at the foot of the mountain, visits to a huge frozen waterfall, snow scooters, go-kart racing on studded tyres, ice climbing and *night skiing. Are's website is www.arefjall.se*
- Website: *www.crystalholidays.co.uk.*

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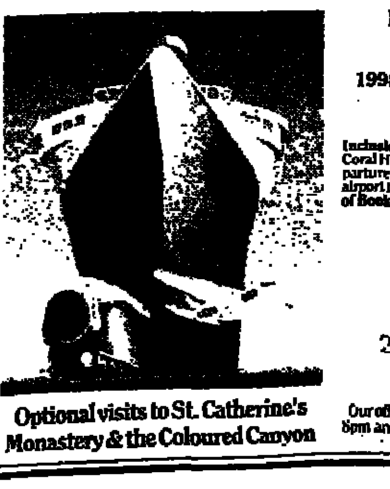

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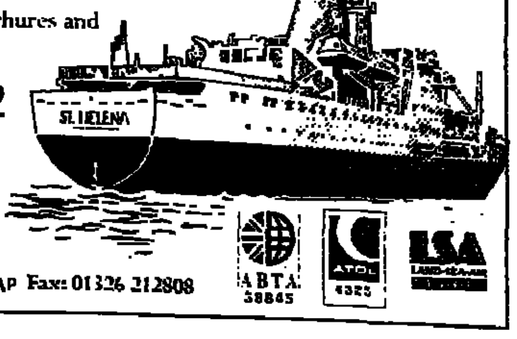

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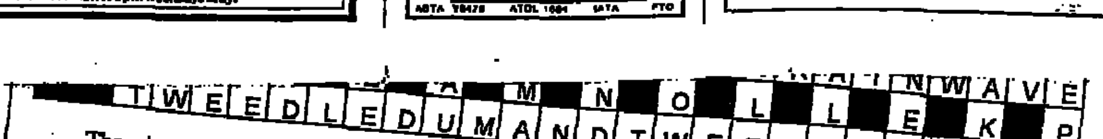

The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Tom Whitelaw, of Bearsden in Scotland

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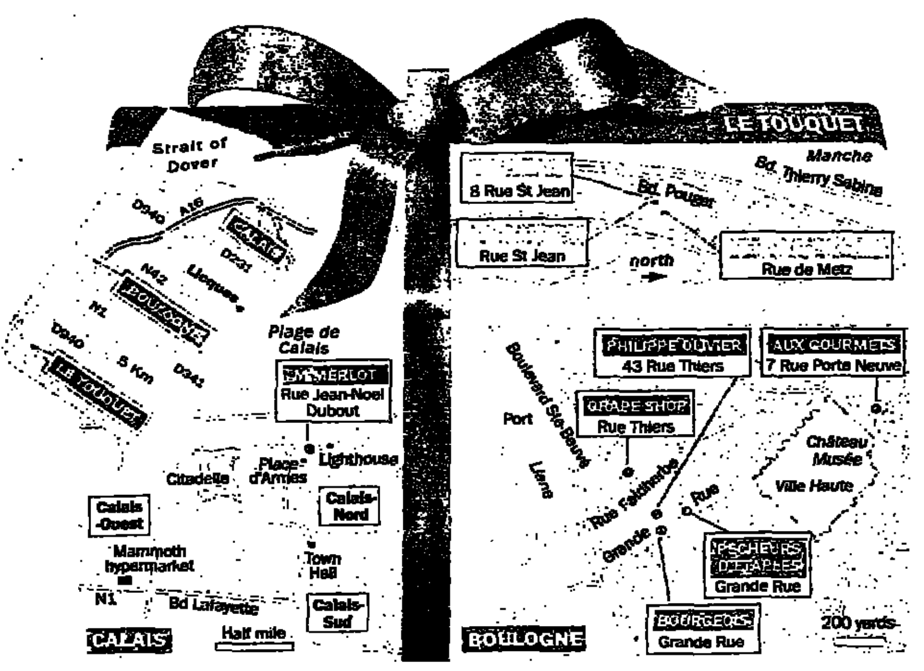
Shopping in France is cheaper, the selection is better and goods even come gift-wrapped, says **Robin Young**

It's time for that counter attack



GILL ALLEN

Best in the Channel ports: the Charcuterie Bourgeois, 1 Grande Rue in Boulogne, is full of mouthwatering delicacies for a Christmas Eve feast

TRY SOMETHING different this year: all you need is stamina and determination to brave Channel gales, booze-cruise companions and French shopping queues. The rewards are rich — you will able to treat family and friends to delicacies you might never afford, or in some cases be able to obtain, in Britain. And in France shop assistants will happily gift-wrap goods free of charge.

My big idea, first put into practice last year, was to take advantage of rock-bottom ferry fares and stock up with beer, wines and spirits and and just about anything else appropriate. It could not have worked better and friends and acquaintances were simply awestruck by the splendour of our Christmas arrangements.

The operation is profitable because all your alcohol will be bought at duty-free or French (low duty) prices. Discounts on perfumes, tobacco, beauty products, cameras and watches come as an optional bonus. But the real prize is the shopping that is available in and around Calais and Boulogne. I travelled alone with a shop-till-you-drop attitude. Having other family members along can help to divide the labour, but will involve discussions about what and where to buy. *Leading supermarkets* and hypermarkets in France open on only the last three Sundays before Christmas, and all specialist food shops are likely to be closed on Monday mornings.

This was my plan of action:

■ CATCH AN early ferry. The time saved in loading and unloading procedures is valuable, bearing in mind that however early you set out it is already an hour later in France because of the time difference.

Leaving home in central London at 6am, I was in Calais on December 23 last year just before 10am local time. I drove straight to my favourite baker, M Merlot, in his modest shop at 10 Rue Jean-Noël Dubout, off the *northeastern corner of Place* d'Armes at the coastal (northern) end of town.

There is no point in buying French baguettes so early in the day. They are intended to keep only a few hours. Instead I bought large, unsliced *pains de campagne* (country loaves), *pains aux olives* (bread with olives) and *pains aux noix* (walnut bread). From good bakers these more durable French loaves will last up to a week.

M Merlot's cakes and patisseries were so tempting that I bought some of them, too, before heading the few miles inland from Calais to Licques.

Licques is to poultry in France rather as Norfolk is to *turkeys in Britain*. The little town has an annual turkey festival (this year on December 13-14) and a reputation for high-quality chickens, ducks and geese. I had ordered a capon (something we have not been allowed to buy in England since 1973) in advance by ringing Licques Volailles on 3-21 35 80 03. *To find the* abattoir, turn right just before entering the town. The low-slung white building on the rise on the right-hand side is the one you want. Collecting and paying for my bird took only minutes.

From Licques I headed to the vast Cité Europe shopping *mall outside Calais (junctions* 12 or 14 off the A16). The hypermarket here is a Carre*four (not my favourite) so I* preferred to park at the lower level close to the Porte de Belge, which provides quick access to the Cité's gastronomic shops. There is another excellent baker here — actually the village baker from nearby Wierre Effroy, who had the good sense to open *within the shopping centre.* His bread from wood-fired ovens will not disappoint, and his neighbours include Tesco and Victoria Wine. The most catholic wine selections in the French Channel ports are available from the British wine retailers, who also include Sainsbury's linked to the Auchan (formerly Mammouth) hypermarket off the N1 west of Calais and the *Grape Shop in Rue Thiers,* Boulogne.

A quick whisk of best bargains from Tesco and Vic Wine saw me back on the motorway in less than half an hour, now with a bootful of booze alongside my fruit and veg. I had an untroubled 20-minute drive to Boulogne, *where I bought conserves,* spices and other delicacies from the Hédiard range at Aux Gourmets, 7 Rue Porte Neuve, just outside the gates of the old town, and rewarded myself with lunch at Pêcheurs d'Etaples in the Grande Rue (3-21 30 29 29), one of several town-centre restaurants cap*able of providing a speedy* feast.

I stopped at the fish counter on the way out to buy a pannier of oysters packed in wet seaweed. They will keep up to five days if the weather is cold enough, and I gave mine extra protection by packing them into one of the cold boxes with freezer blocks I had brought with me.

■ *A FEW doors down the* street, at No 1 Grande Rue, is the Bourgeois charcuterie shop, the best in the Channel ports (3-21 31 53 57, phone and fax). Here I bought a Christmas Eve feast of *choucroute garnie* (pickled cabbage with five sorts of sausages and two cooked meats as gargantuan garnishes), Christmas breakfasts of *andouillettes* (tripe sausages), *boudins noirs* and *boudins blancs* (black puddings and poultry and veal sausages) and a generous tub full of the Christmas speciality *rilletes d'oie* (a kind of mashed goose). Other options this year will *include cassoulet* (stew of pork, poultry and beans), and *petit salé aux lentilles* (salt pork with lentils).

The next stop was essential for cheese-lovers, round the corner at No 43 Rue Thiers at the Fromagerie de Philippe Olivier (3-21 31 94 74, fax 3-21 30 76 57). By prior arrange*ment M Laurent, chef of the* Relais de la Brocante at Wimille (3-21 83 19 31, fax 3-21 87 29 71), had left a meticulously prepared foie gras for collection here. (He was closed on December 23 last year.) He, *or other local chefs, may still* entertain a limited number of similar orders this year — or you can buy foie gras direct from producers in the immediate hinterland of Boulogne.

As for cheese, the Olivier shop staff are helpful about choosing a good selection and having them in the right state of readiness for consumption a stated number of days ahead. *The Christmas* cheese par excellence in France is the unctuously creamy Vacherin de Mont d'Or, so runny that it has to be eaten with a spoon and not the easiest to have in the peak of condition just when required. I also bought Roquefort, Munster, Reblochon, Camembert, Pont l'Evêque and a magnificently fruity Belfort — but there are *more than 200* cheeses in the shop to choose from.

There is also butter with sea salt, whole milk yoghurts, *tarte aux maroilles* (local cheese tart), crème fraîche and walnut bread.

An alternative bakery to those already mentioned is Demarchez, just along the *street at the junction with Rue* Faidherbe. Last year I bought my French Christmas puddings, made with real plums here, before moving further along Rue Thiers to see what the Grape Shop had to offer.

■ THEN I realised that I still had enough time to make the *run to Le Touquet* where I know I could get the best cakes and chocolates available anywhere on the northern French coast. On the way out of Boulogne I even managed to stop at the Leclerc supermarket at Outreau — a good one for boxes of fine wines at better than average prices. Cheap champagne (from about Fr60 a bottle) and clarets from less good vintages *such* as 1993 or 1994 are especially recommended, plus a few bottles of *vin doux naturel* such as Muscat de Rivesaltes, Frontignan or Beaumes-de-Venise to serve chilled as a Christmas aperitif.

In Le Touquet I managed to park immediately between two of my targets — the Lido Pâtisserie at the corner of Rues St Jean and Londres and the Au Chat Bleu chocolate shop. I spent a horrifying £90 in 15 minutes and then raced round the corner to the Pérard fish shop, restaurant and soup factory on Rue de Metz (3-21 05 13 33, fax 3-21 05 62 32) — for fish soups with accompanying jars of *rouille* (sweet-pepper mayonnaise).

It was dark. It was wet. It was cold. But I was *happy. On* the way back to the ferry terminal in Calais I pulled up in the Rue Royale to buy my wife a silk scarf and some Biotherm beauty products. (Christmas is not entirely about food.) I caught a slightly delayed 8pm sailing, and was at home in London by 10.30pm. We did not *shop* again until the new year.

● *Other useful numbers: Calais advice line: 0181-348 0503 (9.30am-4.30pm, Monday to Saturday). Carrefour, Cité Europe, Calais (3-21 46 75 55). Auchan, Calais (3-21 46 92 92). Auchan, St Martin, Boulogne (3-21 10 11 12). Leclerc, Outreau, Boulogne (3-21 10 28 28).*

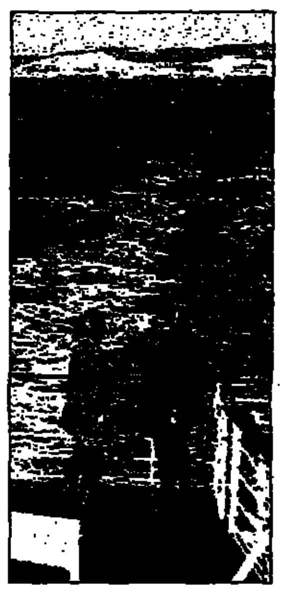
CHANNEL OFFERS

■ **HOVERSPEED** (0990 240241) offers a day-trip to Boulogne at £18 for two people. The deal includes rail travel from a choice of 15 stations in London and the Southeast to Folkestone, and then onwards to Boulogne by Hoverspeed.
The company also has £5 *foot-passenger* fares available on Dover-Calais and Folkestone-Boulogne. A car and five passengers by SuperSeaCat on Folkestone-Boulogne costs £25 (£35 on Saturdays and bookings on day of travel); Hovercraft fares on Dover-Calais, £29 (£39 Saturdays and bookings on day of travel). Valid until December 31.
Daytrips for £10 are also available when taking the 7am SuperSeaCat departure from Dover on Friday or Saturday. These are valid for a car and five passengers.

■ **STENA LINE** (0990 707070): Day-trippers on foot can travel Dover-Calais and Newhaven-Dieppe for £2; a car costs £15 and £2 per passenger. A £10 supplement per car applies on Saturday with a £1 *supplement* for foot passengers. This is valid until December 23.

■ **SEAFRANCE** (0990 711711): Day-trip fares to Calais cost £1 for foot passengers every day. A car and driver costs *£10* (which becomes £20 on Saturdays), extra passengers are charged £1 each. This is valid until December 31.
One night's B&B in Calais costs £39 (£49 on Saturdays) for two sharing a twin or double room, including ferry crossing from Dover. Valid until December 22.

■ **P&O EUROPEAN FERRIES** (0990 980980): Day-trip fares Dover-Calais: £2 for foot passengers; £25 for a car and up to nine people (£35 on Saturdays). A two-day fare costs £29 for a car and five passengers (with a £10 supplement applicable on Saturdays). You can book and pay 24 hours in advance. This is valid until December 31.



Ferry travel: speeding over the Channel to shop

■ **LE SHUTTLE** (0990 353535): Day-trips, booked 24 hours in advance, available from Sunday to Friday for £29 for a car and all occupants *(£39 on Saturday)*.
Until December 31, one night's B&B in Calais or St Omer is £35 per person, including Channel Tunnel travel (travel after midday, return before 4pm the following day, book 24 hours in advance).

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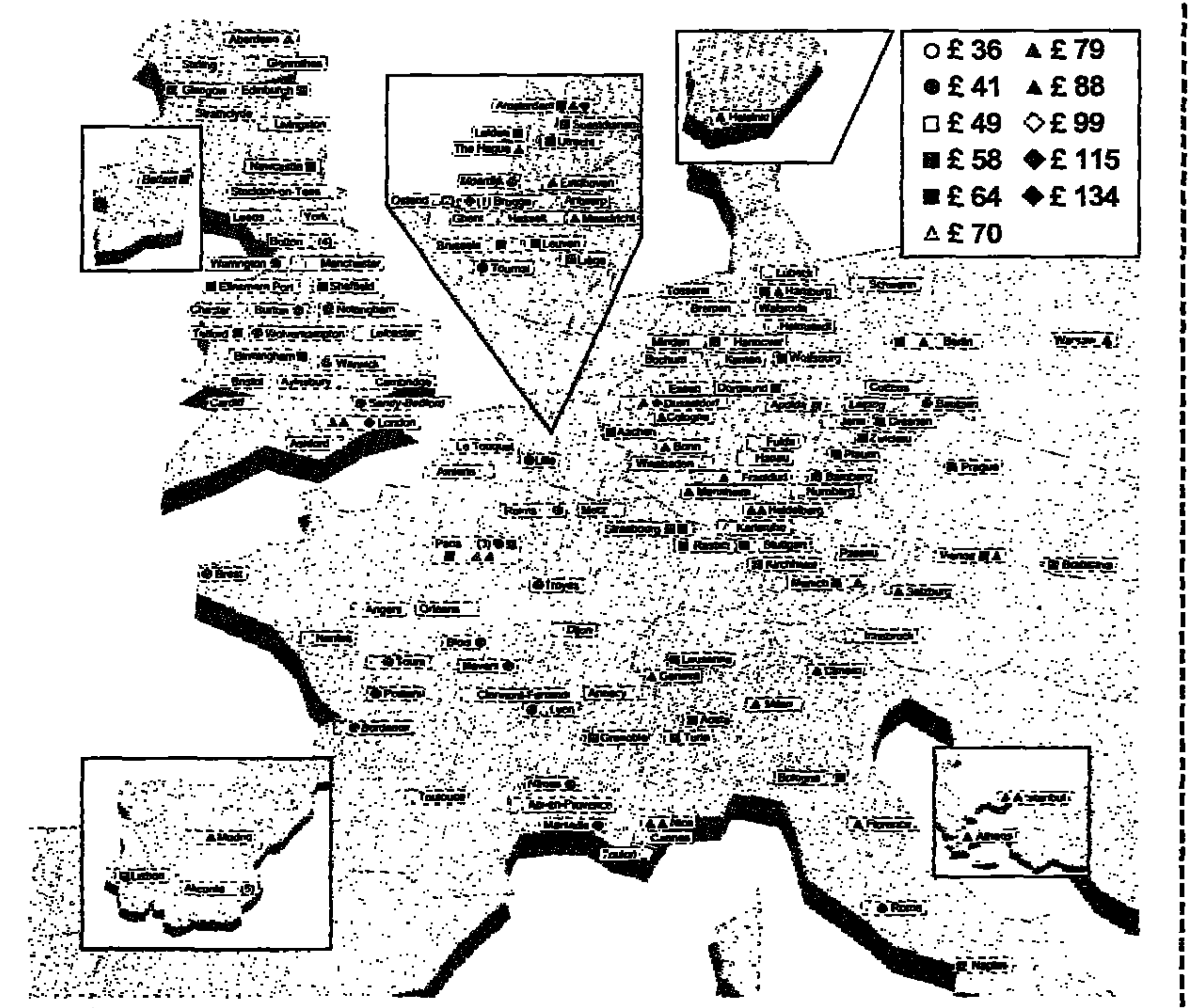

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Robin Young

Reception? There's a corpse in my bath

Would-be sleuths compare notes and collect clues

KOBAL

The first victim falls in Neil Simon's *Murder by Death*, a spoof of the murder mystery genre in which the dinner guests are all fictional detectives

Ivo Tennant dusts off his deerstalker as he joins the hunt for the killer on a murder mystery weekend

My invitation was, well, rather different. It came from the St Giles Music Appreciation Society to attend its annual convention at a hotel near Oxford to elect a new president.

In the event, far from discussing the merits of great concertos, the guests were to spend the entire weekend investigating an even more taxing matter: a murder.

This occurred in the bath and, what was more, during dinner. It was not altogether a damned inconvenience.

There was a suspicion of ketchup about the blood, and the sleuth who materialised to try to solve the crime was more Hercule Poirot than a modern police chief-inspector.

The plot had been devised for a murder mystery weekend to tax the intellects of guests from far afield who were more interested in testing their skills of deduction than loafing around a swimming pool.

The idea behind these weekends is that the guests arrive at the hotel in time for dinner on Friday. At some point that evening, a corpse is discovered. Then the fun begins.

The guests examine the scene and then spend much of that evening and the following day looking for clues.

Other actors appear and help the development of the plot, structured so that it cannot be solved before Sunday: a likely suspect may even be bumped off on Saturday evening.

The identity of the murderer will be revealed before Sunday lunch and with any luck — and ingenuity — it will have been guessed before then, by a guest or guests able to put together the pieces of the puzzle.

The actors, some professionals who are between mainstream jobs, others amateur, then reappear to discuss the dastardly plot over the Sunday roast beef trolley.

The only ketchup to be glimpsed at this point is of the edible variety, and the clientele depart in the afternoon to resume their more humdrum existences.

A murder weekend is not everybody's idea of relaxation. Post-prandial tramping up and down fire escapes in pursuit of the whiff of cordite, followed by the examination of a body in a bath or an open coffin.

The close questioning of suspects is, even if this is merely a form of high jinks, not quite the same as mowing the lawn. It is a fantasy weekend for guests who are mostly middle class, of middling years and by no means unintelligent.

The Whodunnit Company, which organises entertainment all over the country for people who are brought together in a fictitious group such as the St Giles Society, once staged a "horror weekend".

The company's proprietor, Edward Holden, insisted that all the guests should produce a medical certificate beforehand. "We staged a mass seance," he said, "and people became seriously spooked, so we haven't done it since. I was worried about what guests might do to themselves."

Such concerns are not ill-founded. On another occasion, a guest was thought to be play-acting when in fact he was having an epileptic fit — happily, he recovered.

And six years ago, the Algonquin Hotel in New York forgot to warn its normal guests that it was hosting a theme weekend. So when an actor ran through the lobby with a blazing gun, there was widespread panic.

The birthplace of the murder mystery weekend was Torquay, where Agatha Christie grew up, and in particular the Imperial Hotel. Now, they tend to be staged at three-star establishments, often in the West Country. The Spread Eagle in Thame is a favourite location, partly because it allows the plot creators to introduce frogmen discovering bodies in the Isis , and partly because nearby Oxford is an attractive venue for an excursion.

Nobody is actually required to turn their mind to solving a murder all weekend, but nonetheless, some do.

Mary Gleeson, an adult education lecturer from Amersham, was so excited at the prospect of her sixth murder weekend in seven years that she arrived four and a half hours early on the Friday.

She brought a selection of shoes "so that I have plenty of choice depending on the amount of running about I want to do". As she filled in her time by eating cream cakes, she explained its lasting appeal.

"It is much more fun than watching Agatha Christie on television," she said. "The suspense keeps me going and the actors want us to have a good time.

"This is the sort of trip on which a woman can come on her own and get involved as much as she likes. I could not sit on a beach."

At her table at dinner, she was sitting with two German women from Frankfurt — "We find the English sense of humour very odd but we like it" — and a couple from Horsham in West Sussex who were participating because they prefer to chat to fellow guests and socialise rather than sit on their own.

"A theme weekend fills in a gap for corporate people who don't know what to talk about to each other," Holden said.

"Our actors have to come up with clever lines off the top of their heads. Some guests test us with questions — especially about dates.

"One year there was a daunting row of Cadbury executives and another time Oliver Reed came as a guest. In the morning, we saw him with shaving cream on his face, looking slightly the worse for wear, and then he disappeared for the rest of the weekend."

Holden sticks to a strict rule about "murdered" actors not re-emerging over the weekend except to take a bow on Sunday. Seeing a body rise from the dead in time for breakfast, as occurs with some companies, hardly adds to the authenticity of what he terms "the show".

There are always the inevitable guests who giggle or who come up with a ready quip — "I can't solve any murder mysteries until I go to the toilet" — until they are quietened by the sight of the dreaded body. It does look realistic.

The acting is wholehearted — and some weekends may involve seven or eight actors — and so, for that matter, is the audience participation. One particular guest, who came in a wheelchair, insisted on being carried up and down the stairs in search of blood and gore and was ultimately even more exhausted than the actors themselves.

There is more than an element of competition among the guests to guess the murderer, but Holden reckons that only about a third of the guests get it right.

This particular plot culminated in a shooting, another murder and an arrest. By noon on Sunday, the culprit was revealed by two guests able to congratulate themselves that they were a match for any Poirot.

For my part, I had suspected almost everyone else, including most of the members of the St Giles Music Appreciation Society. Somewhat chastened by the ingenuity of my fellow guests, I left the hotel and made my way back to reality.

On a knife edge: the victim always has to be realistic

POST MORTEM FACT FILE

Murder most foul, as guests start the weekend's work by discovering the victim

- Murder plots run by the Whodunnit Company (01363 774467) range from melodrama in Victorian times to modern-day crime detection. Guests can dress in the appropriate fashion.
- *Whodunnit's weekends* include two nights' half-board accommodation and Sunday lunch in three-star hotels. Prices range from £180-£195 per person. The author stayed at the *Spread Eagle Hotel* (01844 213661) at Thame in Oxfordshire.
- Forte Hotels (0345 543555) is among hotel chains running murder weekends, in which "incident rooms" are set up. An event is planned every weekend and prices range from £185-£210 per person for two nights, dinner and B&B. The 1997-98 brochure is due out on Monday.
- Virgin Hotels (0800-716 919) also has murder weekends at the four-star Crathorne Hall Hotel in Crathorne, North Yorkshire, from £190 — two *nights' half-board* accommodation and lunch on Saturday included, based on two sharing.
- Skills Motor Coaches (01623 633300) has trips *including a one-night half-*board stay at the four-star Jarvis Fairfield Manor Hotel in *York departing on* December 13 for £59, based on two sharing. Coaches transport participants from various pick-up points.
- Crystal Britain (0181-390 *8513) is offering murder mystery* day trips from London to Brighton on the Orient Express *from next March for £180.* Breakfast and a three-course lunch are included.
- HF Holidays (0181-905 9558) offers a weekend in March at Sedbergh in the Yorkshire *Dales for £119.*
- Padwick & Ball (0181-367 6793) has a murder weekend in Abingdon on January 23 at £99 for two nights' half-board and another in Brighton on February 6 for £109.
- For more information call the British Tourist Authority *(0181-846 9000).*

Horror addicts can also get their fix on guided historic tours

Feel the chill on the street

SINCE early childhood I have suffered from what some might call an obsessional fear of psychopaths. I decided to face up to my phobia — joining a *Jack the Ripper* tour of London. *Joanna Hunter writes.*

I was among a group of 60-odd people. But none seemed particulary strange. Most were American, but there was a significant English presence: the majority also being less than 30.

Our guide was Steve, whose fantastic energy turned out to be the most terrifying part of the tour. He described the personal histories, last sightings and in gory detail, murders of the Ripper's five victims.

"It's supposed to be scary, not funny," complained adisgruntled walker. I was also initially disappointed: Steve's pitch was a cross between school trip and Panto, cajoling the crowd into choruses of "oohs" and "aahs", and describing one of the victims as " a sort of Dick Van Dyke in a skirt".

The first recorded serial killer stalked East London in the late summer of 1888. Known as Jack the Ripper in reference to his gruesome habit of disemboweling his victims, his indentity, of course, remains a mystery.

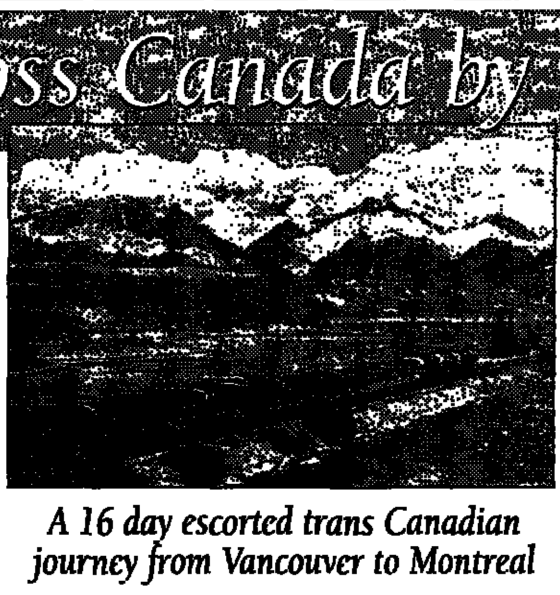
EAST LONDON is no longer a seething den of Victorian vice, and to the disappointment of some of my companions, most of the murder scenes have been pulled down and replaced by offices and restaurants.

Strolling through brightly lit streets surrounded by people is hardly terrifying, and I was glad that Steve didn't attempt to over—hype an already dramatic story.

More murder mystery than psychotic sightseeing. The Ripper Walk is informative and surprisingly fun. After two hours walking the streets on a damp November night (with only the briefest break in the pub) the crowd was still gripped. But when we were left at Algate East underground station to disappear back into the night, we were none the wiser to Jack's true identity.

- ● *London Walks (0171-624 3978) runs* Jack The Ripper *tours from Tower Hill Underground station daily at 7.30pm and at 3pm on Saturdays.*
- ● *A* Classic Murders and Crimes *tour of West London leaves Embankment Tube station at 6.30pm on Saturdays. Adults £4.50, students and pensioners £3.50. Children under 15 go free when accompanied by an adult.*
- ● *The Witchery Murder and Mystery Tour (0131-225 6745) offers tours of Edinburgh's Old Town for £6, by appointment only.*

Across Canada by Rail



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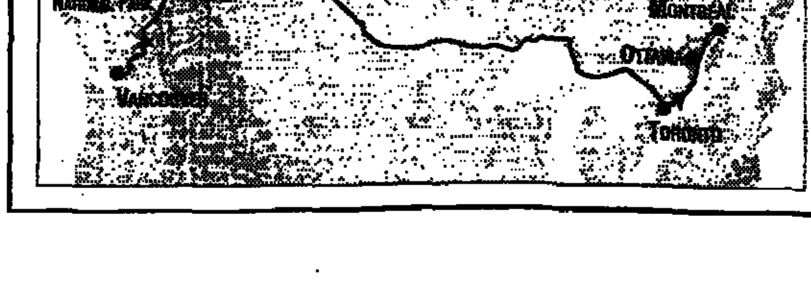

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With rice terraces under threat, Philippine tourists may have to help out, says **Adam Easton**

Worms turn as wonder goes under

Tourists may soon be charged to visit the 2,000-year-old Banaue rice terraces in the Philippines, which are being destroyed by an unlikely agent — giant earthworms.

The narrow terraces, dubbed the Eighth Wonder of the World by the country's Department of Tourism, attract one million visitors annually.

But in recent years, many of the once-stunning terraces have collapsed or become overgrown with weeds.

The origin of the worms, which can be 18in long, is uncertain, but they may have arrived when higher-yielding strains of rice were introduced to the area after the Second World War.

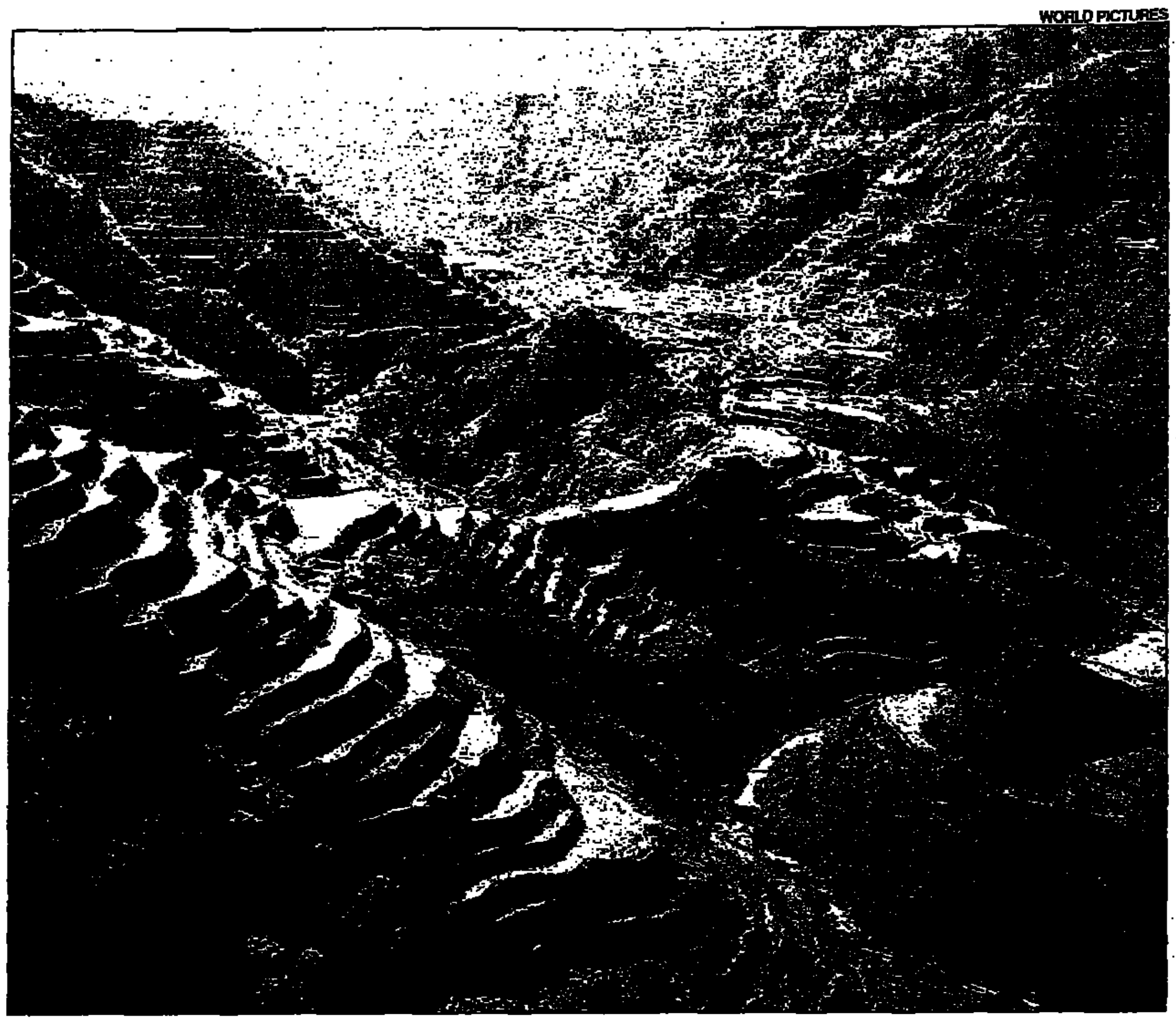
Christopher Pagadut, project development officer of the Rice Terraces Commission (RTC), said: "The worms bore deep within the stone retaining walls of the terraces, producing an effect like a hole in a dyke. When the monsoon rains come they wash away the soil, leading to the collapse of the wall and the terrace. It only takes a week of rains to destroy a 1,000-year-old terrace."

Commission workers have so far failed to find a cure. Banaue mayor Tito Candelario said: "Thirty years ago the grandeur of the rice terraces was magnificent. In 20 years — we do not know."

The RTC is helping to raise cash to maintain the terraces. It encourages farmers to supplement their income through other crafts, and to cultivate more cash crops such as mushrooms and cabbages.

If this doesn't work, the Department of Tourism has considered introducing a fee for visitors. British tourist Jon Rogers said: "It would be a shame to have to pay, but if the scheme would help to maintain such an ancient wonder of craftsmanship then I would be happy to."

WORLD PICTURES



The Banaue rice terraces in the Philippines, an agricultural and visual spectacle, are gradually crumbling

Sri Lanka brews up target for tourism

SRI LANKA hopes to capitalise on British determination — and our abiding interest in tea and cricket — to boost its tourism trade, which has been badly hit by terrorism, *Tony Dawe writes.*

Many former colonies reject their British past, but Sri Lanka is planning to launch a "Discover British Ceylon" campaign next year that will focus on tea plantations, cricket fields, historical and cultural attractions and the gem and spice industries our ancestors helped to create.

Encouraged by the reluctance of many British holidaymakers to leave Luxor despite last week's horrific terrorist attack, the Sri Lankans are confident that their own difficulties will not deter British tourists either.

Their new campaign will, however, keep visitors away from the worst trouble spots including Colombo, the capital, where scores of people have died in bomb attacks in the last two years, and the northern strongholds of the Tamil Tigers liberation movement.

Britons top the list of foreign tourists to Sri Lanka, with 50,000 out of a total of 300,000 travelling so far this year, but these figures have been static for 15 years.

"We have set a target of one million visitors within the next five years.

"We believe we can achieve that if we can convince people that Sri Lanka is safe for travel and safe for investment," Ranjith Perera, the tourist board director, said on a visit to London. "There is tremendous untapped potential in Britain."

Tea festivals and exhibition cricket matches are planned as part of the new campaign, but tourist officials are also keen to promote the country's golf courses and coastal attractions.

Sri Lanka boasts spectacular shipwrecks and coral reefs. Its newest attraction is a wetland visitor centre, which includes a traditional fisherman's village, an exhibition on nature conservation, a herb garden and a shop full of "marsh memories".

Fancy sailing the high seas?

DO YOU have the taste for an adventure on the high seas? Then join the crew of an 18th-century square rigger sailing to the New World.

You'll sleep in a hammock, hoist the sails, scrub the decks and take the helm. If you are fit, don't suffer seasickness and dig deep in your pockets, a trip of a lifetime could come true. The £8-million replica of Captain Cook's *Endeavour* is preparing for an eight-week voyage to America in the new year. She will carry 35 amateur crew, 13 officers and professional sailors and four passengers.

Having finished a seven-month UK tour, the ship — built in Australia using original plans from the National Maritime Museum — is being refitted at Whitby, North Yorkshire, where the first *Endeavour* was built in 1765.

The dockside and workshops are open to visitors until December 8. Sailmakers can be seen working the canvas, riggers splicing rope and seamen tarring the ratlines — the rope ladder steps between the rigging — all using 18th-century methods.

After repairs, visitors will be able to board *Endeavour* until December 14, when she leaves for dry dock in Hull. The ship leaves Hull on January 8 and departs for America six days later from Plymouth Stairs, from where Captain Cook set sail in the original *Endeavour* in 1768.

More than 200 years later, *Endeavour's* route to America — a voyage Cook never made — is via Tenerife. On the second leg it heads for St Thomas in the Virgin Islands, then Nassau, before arriving at Palm Beach, Florida, on March 5.

For crew members the voyage from Hull to Tenerife will cost £606. From The Canaries to Florida: £1,515. The whole trip costs £1,787.

Paying passengers will need to find £2,575 for the first leg; £8,030 for the second part. The fare for the whole trip is £10,606.

RONALD GRIBBLE

● *HM Bark Endeavour Foundation (0181-293 5522)*

PACK YOUR BAGS

☐ ITALIAN culture vultures will be in heaven this week: Pavarotti is singing in Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore* in Naples on Tuesday, Thursday and the following Wednesday (December 10), tickets from £52; Stravinsky's *L'oiseau de feu* is playing in Florence on Wednesday and Thursday, tickets for £20, and Verdi's *Rigoletto* is being performed in Genoa on Saturday, tickets from £47. Tickets and B&B accommodation at a selection of three to five-star hotels from £66 per twin room can be arranged through Liaisons Abroad (0171 376 4020).

☐ CRAVING tortillas and tequila? First Choice (0161-742 2228) has 14 nights', three-star accommodation only, at a Mexican beach resort for £379 per person. Return flights to Puerto Vallarta or Cancún depart from Gatwick on Tuesday, December 9.

☐ IF YOU are desperate to escape this December you might consider Lunn Poly's offer of flights only to Alicante for £99. Valid for 28 nights and including departure tax, the flight departs from Birmingham on Thursday. Visit your local Lunn Poly shop for details.

☐ MORE than just a treaty: Holland's largest Christmas market begins at Maastricht on Saturday (December 6). Amsterdam Travel Service (01992 456056) has two nights' B&B at the Hotel Bergère from £175 per person. Return Eurostar from London to Maastricht is also included.

☐ WANTING to polish up your technique before you hit the piste? Sheffield Ski Village (0114 276 8822) is offering Slope Off weekend breaks from £59 for one night and £99 for two nights, including B&B, eight hours' tuition, lift passes and equipment hire.

JOANNA HUNTER

FLYING VISITS

Departures: Monday 1 December to Saturday December 6, 1997
Lowest available published fares for return travel.

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London – Berlin	£99 AB Airlines (ex-Gatwick)	£470 BA (ex-Heathrow)
London – Cologne	£99 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)	£330 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)
London – Dublin	from £38 Ryanair (ex-Stansted)	from £99 Ryanair (ex-Stansted/Gatwick)
London – Edinburgh	from £58 easyJet (ex-Luton)	£198 BA (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)
Manchester – Malta	£139mw/£169we BA (ex-Gatwick)	£332 BA (ex-Gatwick)
London – New York	£169 Virgin Atlantic (ex-Heathrow/Gatwick)	£844 BA (ex-Heathrow)
Manchester – Nice	£126 Air UK/KLM	£542 BA
London – Orlando	£309mw/£339we (ex-Gatwick)	£992 BA (ex-Gatwick)
Newcastle – Paris	£108mw/£118we BA	£245 BA

Airline telephone numbers

AB Airlines 0345 464748
Air UK/KLM 0990 074074
British Airways (BA) 0345 222111
easyJet 0990 292929

Notes

* mw-midweek; we-weekend.
* Prices shown in the left-hand column are the lowest published excursion fares. Prices shown in the right-hand column are the lowest available flexible fares which do not require a Saturday night stay and which, in many cases, allow changes or cancellation without penalty. In all cases you are advised to check the restrictions, if any, when booking.
* Availability is not guaranteed.
* Fares shown do not include any applicable taxes or security fees.

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER — THE TIMES

Still life prints only £4.25 each

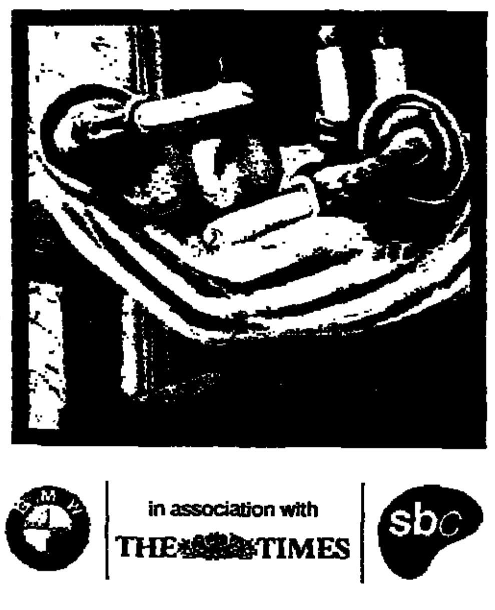
To celebrate its *Objects of Desire* exhibition, the Hayward Gallery has created three beautiful prints exclusively for *Times* readers. These high-quality reproduction prints capture the excitement and variety of the modern still life as seen in the Hayward's groundbreaking exhibition — on until January 4 — organised by the Museum of Modern Art, New York. The three prints are from works by Carlo Carrà, Pablo Picasso and Max Beckmann and represent three important 20th-century masterpieces.

Each print measures approximately 420 x 594mm with a border and is available for just £4.25 or £9.75 if you order all three, a saving of more than 20 per cent.

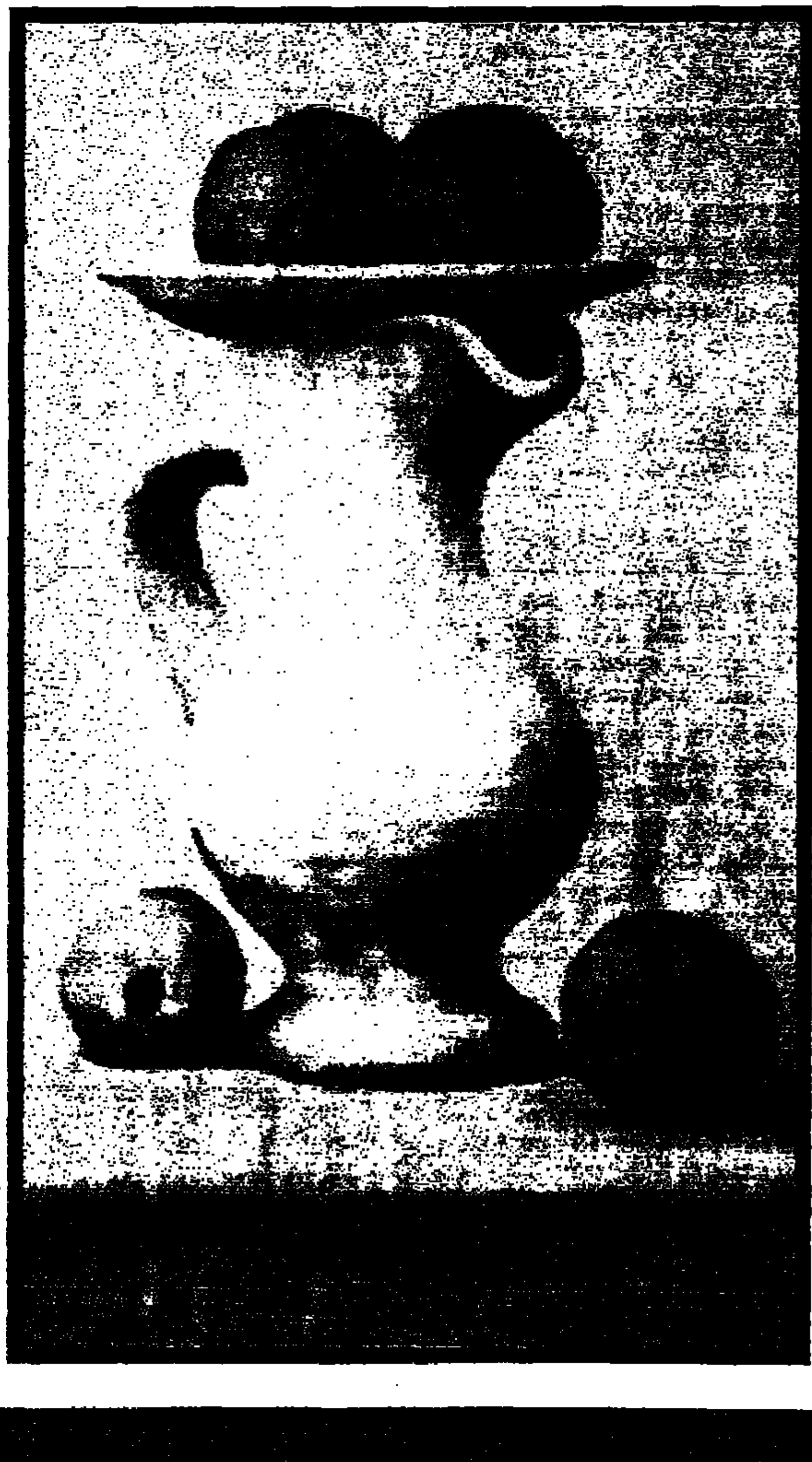
Picasso's evocative *Still Life with Pitcher and Apples* reflects a nostalgia for a classical past and represents a sensuous portrait of his wife, Marie Thérèse.

Max Beckmann's striking *Still Life with Fallen Candles* echoes the classic still life motif of momento mori, a reminder of the transience of earthly life.

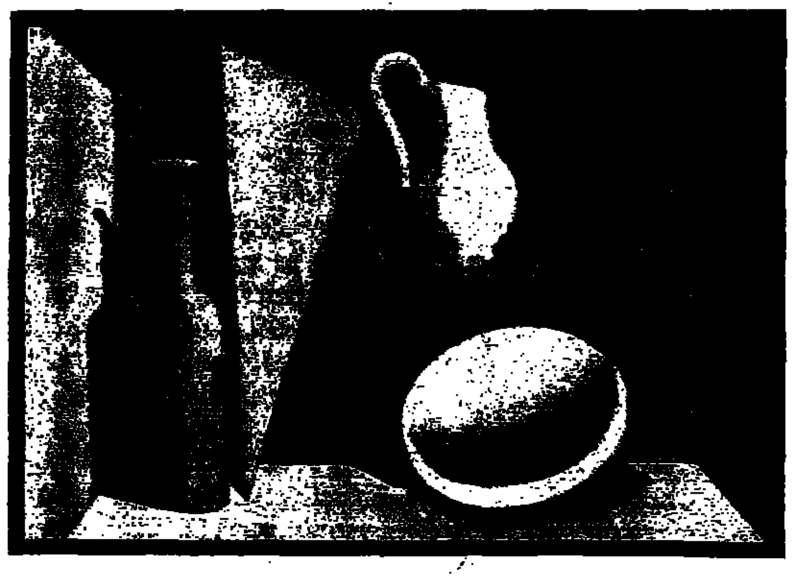
Carlo Carrà's *Still Life with Triangle* illustrates a yearning for timeless order, an idealised spiritual vision, in which traditional still life objects are revealed through modern eyes.



RIGHT: *Max Beckmann* (1884-1950) Still Life with Fallen Candles (1929) The Detroit Institute of Arts ©DACS 1997



CENTRE: Pablo Picasso (1881-1973) Still Life with Pitcher and Apples (1919) Musée Picasso, Paris ©Succession Picasso/DACS 1997



FAR RIGHT: Carlo Carrà (1881-1966) Still Life with Triangle (1917) *Civiche Raccolte d'Arte* ©DACS 1997

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THE TIMES/HAYWARD GALLERY PRINTS ORDER FORM

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Pablo Picasso *Still Life with Pitcher and Apples*	£4.25	
Max Beckmann *Still Life with Fallen Candles*	£4.25	
Set of three prints	**£9.75**	
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Please send to: The Times/Hayward Gallery Prints Offer, PO Box 69, Leighton Buzzard, Beds, LU7 7ZD. Orders received on or before December 8, 1997 will be delivered before Christmas. Other orders, please allow 28 days for delivery. Offer available in the UK only, subject to availability. Please write name and address on back of all cheques.

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IT WOULD HELP US IF YOU ANSWERED THESE QUESTIONS:

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☐ 1 15-24 ☐ 2 25-34 ☐ 3 35-44
☐ 4 45-54 ☐ 5 55-64 ☐ 6 65+

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) each week?

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Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less)?

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Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?

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Have you visited *Objects of Desire* at the Hayward Gallery? ☐ YES ☐ NO

How many times in the last 12 months have you visited an art exhibition/gallery?

☐ 0 visits ☐ 1-2 visits ☐ 3-5 visits ☐ over 6 visits

Tick box if you do not wish to receive details of further offers from *The Times* and The Hayward Gallery ☐

CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الأصل

AROUND THE WORLD A WEEKEND GUIDE

JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS

Secret life of a sardine

THE history of sardines is explained in the Musée Imaginaire de la Sardine at Sète in southern France. The museum houses about 1,000 empty sardine tins and offers riveting facts about the history of the humble fish. Christopher Columbus, it seems, left the Old World with 650 barrels of them on board the *Santa Maria*, and the expression "packed like sardines" is derived from this type of storage.

The sardine tin was invented in 1820 (by a Frenchman); it had to be opened with a hammer and chisel — the key opener came 50 years later. Visitors can climb into a tin to experience the perspective of the cramped fish and, of course, enjoy a *dégustation*. Museum admission costs Fr10; closed Mondays (0033 4 67 74 91 75).

On the map

WHAT are Niska Banja, Sokobanja and Vrnjacka Banja, Galena and Fujairah? They were among the "new" holiday destinations that were being promoted by hopeful tourist boards and tour operators at London's World Travel Market last week. The first three are spa towns in Serbia. So far the only tour operator to Serbia is Thomson Holidays, which offers skiing in Kopaonik from £195 for a week's self-catering.

Historic (for America) Galena is being promoted by the state of Illinois. Other attractions include the world's only McDonald's museum in Des Plaines, and the production of more sweets than anywhere else in the US — Illinois is home to Brach's Candies, the Blackhawk Chocolate Trail and Tootsie Roll Industries.

Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates retains more traditional Arabic character than its booming neighbour Dubai. The tiny emirate has huge sandy beaches, excellent diving and a landscape that ranges from mountains dotted with ancient forts to hidden wadis and lush gardens.

You may doubt whether these places will succeed on the tourist map. Well, look what you can do with a mosquito-ridden swamp in central Florida.

Breathe easy

THE Penang Mutiara Beach Resort in Malaysia is offering free accommodation to guests staying in the hotel at any time when the Air Pollutant Index (API) passes the critical 100 level.

"There has been a great deal of publicity about high levels of air pollution in Malaysia," said Peter Gibbons, the resort's general manager. "Certainly we've had our problems. But since early October the API level has been well below the 100 level, and visibility over 10 kilometres. So we're putting our pockets where our mouths are, and offering this unconditional refund to highlight the greatly improved conditions in our area." A double room at the Mutiara Beach Resort (00604 8852828) costs about £44 per night.

TRAVEL INK

Net working: fishermen in Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates

Mystic history

THE New England port of Mystic, Connecticut, is bracing itself for a tourist invasion after the December release of Steven Spielberg's *Amistad*. The *Amistad* episode is a notorious part of Connecticut history. In 1839, 53 people were kidnapped from their west African homes, forced aboard the schooner *Amistad* and borne off as slaves to a sugar plantation in Cuba. The Africans took over the ship and tried to sail back home. When this failed they were taken into custody in New London, stood trial in New Haven and later in Hartford. It was here that former US President John Quincy Adams successfully argued on their behalf in what is often cited as the first *civil rights case decided by the* Supreme Court.

A reproduction schooner *Amistad* is to be built "to teach lessons of history, co-operation and leadership" at Mystic Seaport, America's leading maritime museum which houses the world's largest collection of boats and maritime photographs. More information from Discover New England (01732 742777).

TRAVEL insurance costs 10 per cent more than it should because of false claims, according to Home & Overseas, which processes 147,000 claims by British holidaymakers each year. The company gives the example of a man who claimed for the cost of an appendectomy . . . 17 times.

A significant number of claims are patently phoney: one careless traveller reckoned to have lost 33 suitcases over three years, while another wanted repayment for treatment he had received in an Indian village — which had been under water for five years.

A particularly enterprising gourmet demanded £1,600 for Iranian caviare "stolen between Heathrow and home"; he dropped the claim when asked for a receipt.

In the Po delta

THE introduction of the shallow-draught *MS Venezia* for next year has enabled KD River Cruises (01372 742033) to offer holidaymakers an unusual and romantic glimpse of the intricate waterways, canals and lagoons of the Po delta.

On an eight-day trip from Venice to Lombardy or vice-versa, the 120-passenger ship stops off at Murano and Burano, Chioggia, Verona, Ferrara and Cremona, with optional visits to see the Donatello reliefs in the basilica of St Anthony in Padua and to Mantua and Parma.

Unlike large modern cruise liners which have to berth at the ugly back door of Venice, *MS Venezia* gets pride of place among the gondolas near St Mark's Square on her two-night stop-over in La Serenissima.

Starting in March, the holiday costs £1,195-£1,425, which includes flights and full board.

FIND OUT more about stinkhorns, slime mould and puff balls by joining a Foraging for Fungi tour in Lithuania next summer, organised by the Field Studies Council (01743 850522). The environmental charity is running 42 holiday courses for serious naturalists — the ten-day Lithuanian tour costs £1,300 which includes flights and full board. An 11-day *Flowers in the Landscape* tour to Cyprus in April, accompanied by an expert botanist, costs £1,030.

Other general interest holidays are aimed at environmental enthusiasts and include Romania's Carpathian mountains where you will find castles and monasteries, volcanoes, salt mountains, magnificent geological highlights, wildflowers and wildlife, even glimpses of bears and wolves. This 13-day tour in June costs £1,380.

MYSTIC SEAPORT MUSEUM

Lights, camera, action: on location in Mystic, Connecticut, for Steven Spielberg's film, *Amistad*, which goes on release next month

Klong holiday

MAGIC of the Orient (01293 537700) is offering the chance to experience life in Bangkok's "klongs", the network of canals which lie across the Chao Phraya River from the main city sprawl.

Guests stay in the wooden Thai House on a family farm among mango trees and coconut palms, eating home-cooked food bought at markets and exploring the klongs by boat. Visits include a trip to the Royal Barge Museum, the Thai Massage School at Wat Po, and an orchid farm. A two-day (one-night) stay costs £158 or can be combined with other Thai holidays. Four nights full-board at the Thai House and seven nights (room only) in Phuket cost £585, including flights.

THE rash of all-inclusive holidays is spreading to the Black Sea coast. Balkan Holidays (0171-543 5566) is offering the first in Bulgaria, at the Elenite Holiday Village situated eight miles north of Sunny Beach, the country's largest resort. The village is on a hillside above a shingle beach, with watersports, ice-creams, afternoon teas, *racia* (the fiery local plum brandy), beer and Bulgarian wine all part of the package. Gastronomy is rarely a highlight in Bulgaria, and the three-meal-a-day buffet service, seemingly inevitable with all-inclusive holidays, is unlikely to improve the quality of the food. Prices are from £349-£469 a week, £493-£669 for two weeks, including flights.

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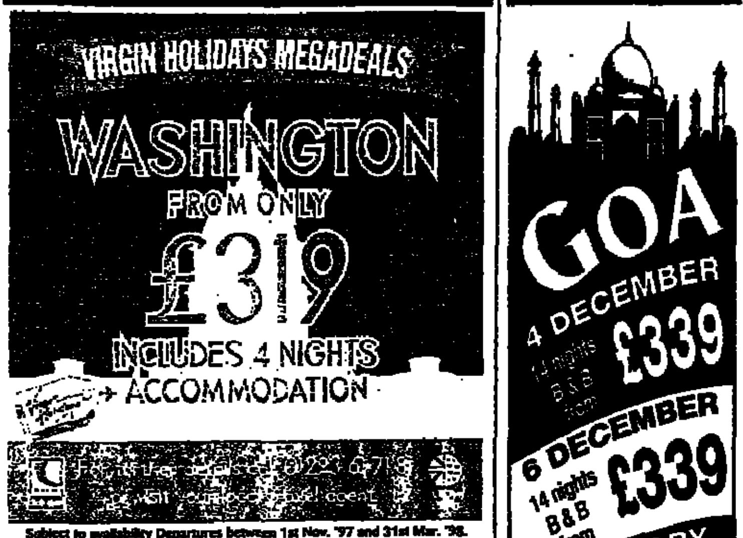

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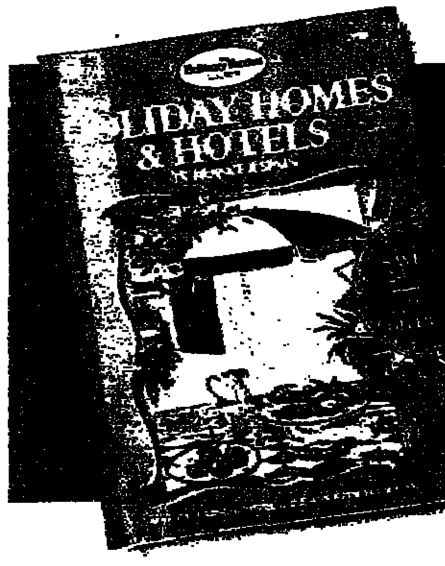

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APHRODITE, 41, curvaceous, witty, well-read & womanly seeks man powerful in heart, mind and physique for marriage in body & soul. W. Sussex/ Surrey/ anywhere. Box No 8858 ☎ ✍

ARE you a lawyer or something similar and would like to meet a lady in her late 40's? Said to be attractive, stylish, has dignity, integrity, brains, sense of humour and children who have nearly left home. Nearing the top of medical profession but low on personal life success and now divorced. Please send phone number to Box No 8865 ☎ ✍

ARTISTIC and creative, tall, intuitive, 30 something beauty, looking for attractive, sensitive, well educated and fun loving male who will not try to run my life for me. Box No 8891 ☎ ✍

ATTRACTIVE, warm, London-based Welsh woman, late 30s, seeks nice, solvent, professional man (35-45) for Winter walks, days out, nights in, friendship. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 8727 ☎ ✍

ATTRACTIVE Filipina, 30, seeks partner. Age or looks not important but kindness is. Please Reply to Box No 8863 ☎ ✍

BEAUTIFUL, starry woman, 46, into nature, animals & healing, seeks happy man for earthly love. S/E & Kent. Photo please. Please Reply to Box No 8836 ☎ ✍

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SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

LADIES

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DEAR Santa please send me for Xmas a special man (to 46) for love, laughter, caring & sharing. I am mid 30s, very attractive in jeans or little black dress. Slim, grad, with warm personality, many sporting/cultural interests. London. Box 8827 ☎ ✍

DREAMER, 48, slim/ blond/ green/5'9", n/s, Public school, classy, warm, WLT fall in love with tall/handsome academic/ prof. 44+. Box No 8859 ✍

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GENTLEMEN Don't be alone this Christmas! If you live in the West Midlands/ Warwickshire call Elite Introductions now. 0121 323 3314 open 7 days

JEWISH, attractive classy blonde, young 42, no ties, enjoys travel, good food, WLTM sincere guy, witty, wealthy, warm, n/s, romantic & good fun. N.W./anywhere. Box No 8821 ☎ ✍

LONDON gentlemen required for our quality lady members Dovetail 0171 483 3377

LOVELY, thoughtful, professional, woman, early 40's, seeks a warm, deep relationship with a man who wants to share the riches & pains of life. London/SW.Box No 8761

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LITTLE lady, with a big heart & cuddly figure, has a warm personality & large capacity for love, life & laughter. Seeking 5'8" plus, confident, considerate, tender, loving, real man, 60-70, to share mutual interests & all life can offer. Bristol/Glos/Som. Box No 8882 ☎ ✍

MY client is a delightfully uncomplicated divorcee, open, good conversationalist, charismatic, vivacious, petite, well dressed with short blond hair, very attractive and living in Central London, but happy to meet anywhere and would relocate for the right person. She would love to meet a well balanced, successful man, solvent, ready to enjoy life in general. From 50-65 and over 5'7" tall. There is no charge for putting you in touch with my client. Tel Heather Heber Percy at Country Partners on 01432 342245/ 342204 office hours, or fax 01432 370381, or page on 01532 523 523 and ask for pager no 861501. All calls returned within three days. Also Reply Box No 8832

NOTTS/Leics/Lincs/Derbys 1000's of attractive/articulate ladies, all ages seeking quality men through Elite Make '98 your year Call now 0115 937 6104 for free info pack

PETITE, attractive, professional lady WLTM handsome, solvent gentleman (45-50). Northamptonshire. Box No 8854 ☎ ✍

PROFESSIONAL woman, 57, WLTM man with Christian values for companionship plus. Please Reply to Box No 8860

SENSUAL, Scorpio woman, mid 40s, independent, attractive, many interests, seeks tall, tactile, intelligent, communicative man. Sussex. Bx 8825 ☎ ✍

SLIM tall attractive elegant woman, blonde, young 42, seeks positive caring cultured man, with love of good food/ countryside Letter/photo plse Sorry no beards London/Home Counties Bx 8873 ☎ ✍

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

RICHMOND, Kingston, Esher, Walton, Uxbridge (TW, KT, UB, HA) Business, professional man call Elite Introductions to meet some lovely ladies in time for Christmas 0181 580 0028

STUNNING, intelligent & fun! Young prof. lady, tall, slim, blonde. Many interests - riding, country sports, the Arts, travel. Seeking a very special, sophisticated, attractive chap (30's). Thoughtful, polite & fun to be with. (Glos.) Please write/photo if possible. Box No 8840

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SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

TALL, blond, professional lady, medium build, seeks similar gentleman for permanent relationship. Aged 40+. London. Please send intelligent letter with photo. Box No 8843 ☎ ✍

TRUE description of my client as follows: Warm, well balanced, tactile, easy conversationalist, very attractive, dark haired, well spoken, successful, slim, divorcee. She is the sort of person you immediately warm to. My client wishes to meet someone who is also successful, professional, attractive, well built, tall, strong character. Looking for a meaningful relationship. 44-55. Integrity and sincerity. There is no charge for putting you in touch with my client. Just tel Heather Heber Percy, Country Partners on 01432 342245/342204 office hrs, or fax 01432 370381 or page on 01532 523 523 and ask for pager no 861501. All calls returned within three days Also Reply Box No 8744

TALL, statuesque blonde, late 40's, well educated, independent & sporty. Looking for tall, charismatic, interesting, sociable extrovert to share the riches of life together. London/ S.E. Box No 8890 ☎ ✍

THINKING man's friend: Eclectic, sincere, positive, feminine Continental lady, youthful 60's, would like the company of an accomplished, chivalrous gentleman to laugh, enjoy life and inspire new enthusiasms. London. Please reply to Box No 8847 ☎ ✍

STYLISH, fit, astute, intelligent, n/s brunette, 41, with GSOH & vibrant personality, Berkshire based, seeks tall, sincere, considerate, successful male, 35-45, with a strong personality & a zest for life, looking for long-term relationship. Photo appreciated. Box No 8773 ☎ ✍

SAS widow for some years, S.E. based, unconventional, warm, elegant, youthful 50's. Attuned to positive thinking, creative, caring life attitude. My work field touches on health & rejuvenation. Various other interests enjoyed. WLTM mature, worldly-minded good-humoured soulmate, sharing sincere camaraderie. Informative letter would be welcome. Please Reply to Box No 8657 ☎ ✍

STYLISH attractive lady of means, homes England and South of France. Interests: Theatre, literature & travel, WLTM mature gentleman of good standing, age unimportant. Norwich. Box No 8780 ☎ ✍

PROFESSIONAL from India (New Delhi) living in Copenhagen, well groomed & beautiful, divorced, 47/167/69 WLTM & marry an honest, stable & well-to-do professional or similar. Please Reply to Box No 8645 ✍

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

GENTLEMEN

ALY KHAN, 39, n/s, 5'10, handsome, successful, solvent, Hampstead based, Romantic, loving and caring. Seeks an elegant, graceful woman, a gem with inner beauty for long term relationship, for love, romance & domestic cosiness. Photo appreciated. ALA. Box No 8850 ☎ ✍

ARE you single, intelligent, male and living in Surrey? Affinità, the discerning social club for single professional over 35's, is looking for new gentleman members to balance our numbers for parties, theatre & restaurant evenings. Phone Brenda 01483 533906 or Derek 01428 607734.

COTSWOLDS workaholic who prefers to ski, sail, travel & enjoy the more important things in life would like to meet an active, professional, n/s lady; '40ish', fun & with a similar outlook on life. Please Reply to Box No 8862 ☎ ✍

EAST MIDLANDS, professional, well travelled, active, 36 year old male seeks 25-35 year old intelligent, slim, non-smoking female for caring & understanding relationship. Photo appreciated. Box No 8833 ☎ ✍

HERE'S to 1998! Male entrepreneur returned to London after 19 years in southern France WLTM female 50's for a sincere permanent sharing/ loving relationship. I am divorced, 60's (but don't look it so I'm told!), solvent, educated, widely travelled, varied interests, GSOH, strong outgoing personality, very reliable, impulsive, impetuous, dynamic, 5'9", clean shaven, good appearance, blue eyes, intelligent, affectionate, caring, sensuous. If the above appeals to you & you are truly feminine, very attractive, financially independent, warm, compassionate & loving write with tel no/photo to box 8866 ☎ ✍

INTELLIGENT, successful, n/s, young 40s, GSOH, WLTM family-minded younger female for LTR. Photo ensures reply. Glos. Please Reply to Box No 8808 ☎ ✍

LONDON ladies required for our quality gentlemen members Dovetail 0171 483 3377

LOYAL, affectionate & sporty, respectable, young 37, nice looking male with no ties, seeks romantic link to balance City career. Ex Cirencester Agric. grad. with country interests, great potential to be polished by pretty GSOH girl. London & Home Counties. Photo please. Box No 8783 ☎ ✍

MAN, 63, London, theatre/opera goer seeks educated woman for relationship. Box No 8839 ☎ ✍

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VERY good looking, successful, youthful 36 year old. Into keep fit, tennis, weekends away, seeks beautiful companion for fun and romance. Photo appreciated. London/Home Counties Bx 8864 ☎ ✍

ADVENTUROUS, attractive, active, genuine male, 32, Surrey based professional, 5'11" with no ties and wide interests, would like to meet like minded intelligent fit lady with wicked sense of humour. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 8696 ☎ ✍

COUNTRY-LOVING gentleman, early 40's, 5'6", financially secure, seeks attractive, professional, intelligent lady, 25-40, with GSOH, to indulge in Winter evenings of firelight conversation & to enjoy the nice things in life. Tel no. & photo appreciated. A.L.A. Windsor area. Box No 8660 ☎ ✍

INTERESTING, tall, intelligent male - late 40's seeks lady aged 35-45 to share interests and adventure. Bx 8762 ✍

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MILDLY Jewish, laid-back, slim, 5'10", Levis/trendy, public-school, non-smoking vegetarian, clean-shaven, highly successful, London, seeks bright, slim, well-spoken, sensual female to share exciting life-style. Photo essential. Please Reply to Box No 8856 ☎ ✍

SLIM, curvy, gorgeous lady, 30s, required for regular fun outings in London. I am tall, well built, well dressed, long time divorced, 50s, charming, chatty, relaxed, n/s, affluent. Interests are wining, dining, golf, sports cars, art, theatre and generally enjoying life. Photo please.Box No 8728 ☎ ✍

SOUTH WEST based, professional, attractive, creative woman in 40's. Interests are theatre, Arts and walking. WLTM tall, creative, like minded man, 40-50 yrs. Please write with photograph if possible to Box No 8736 ☎ ✍

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GAY men London/Home Counties seeking long term relationships - ring Significant Others - the gay intro bureau for professionals. 0171 499 5939

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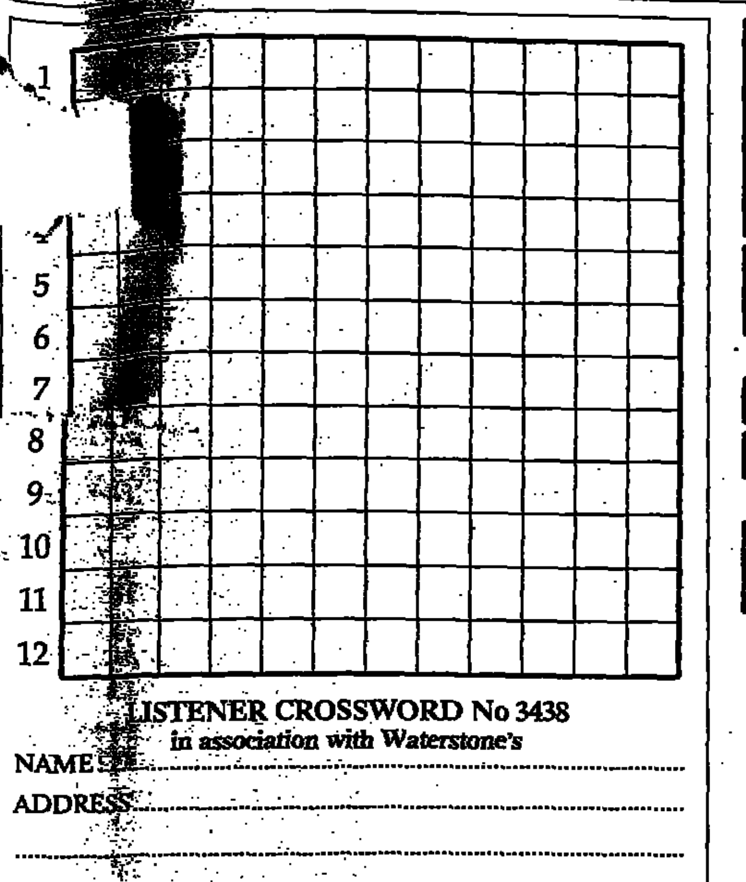
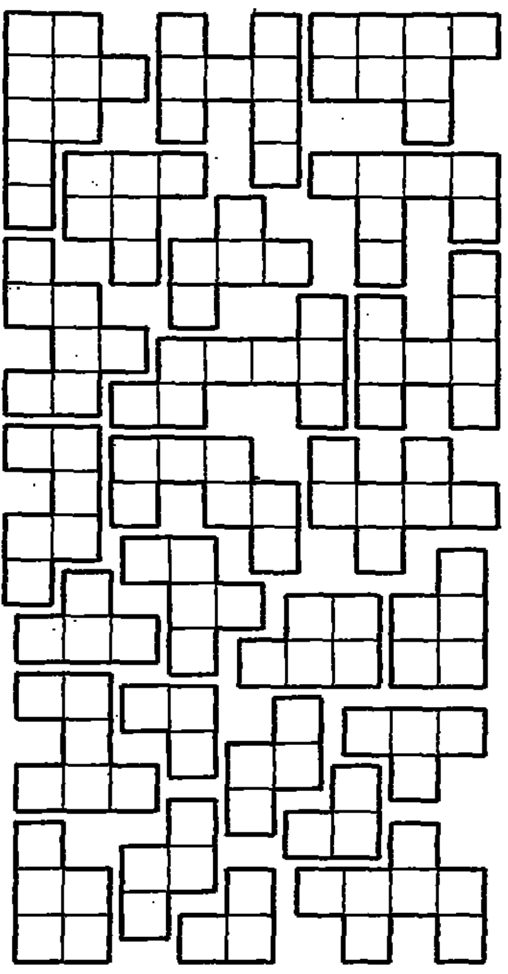
THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3438: A Jigsaw Puzzle by Radix





THE jigsaw clues, *given in alphabetical order of their* answers, lack an appropriate definition. The jigsaw pieces alongside are laid out face down, so the letters cannot be seen; they must be turned over and placed correctly on the grid, and the jigsaw pattern delineated. As with many a jigsaw puzzle, however, there is one wrong piece, which fits but in fact comes from another puzzle: solvers should highlight it. The further clues are normal and should assist in the correct *placement of the jigsaw pieces: the two answers of each pair* exactly occupy the appropriate row, with either answer first. *Chambers* (1993) is recommended. One simple echoic word may be found in the *OED*, but is straightforwardly clued.

CLUES

● Curse Germany ● A gypsy girl's name ● Leaders of ultra-left arrested by the Indian authorities ● Half finished attack ● *Meet and pass round?* ● *Ecstasy — feast on butter* ● *50%* of prostitutes call on the phone ● A sign in iron ● Travel up north, employed by Morgan Grenfell ● Mercenary chap ● Chinese people had possession ● Crucial vacancy in band ● The power of a British pint? ● Parking these days in one's own home ● Criticize the Spanish harshly ● Quarrel in Portuguese ● Goodwife changing sides ● The epitaph of a disreputable person? ● Self-catering to start here ● Verity has to go to bed on time ● People of fashion living in Kent? ● Society has very little power ● A corded cloth in brown ● Order pint here ● Grunt in labour

FURTHER CLUES

1. Catch business associate leaving Russia and heading west ● Falstaff's friend knocked back the whole drink. 2. Highly radioactive — stop there — leave here! ● Blustery promenade — very welcoming! 3. Some newfangled point ● What a basket! Let him take one of the *Scutellaria*. 4. Travelling by Tube, you'll find confusion about recurrent gap ● Constable's *Leaping Horse* is executed by river. 5. A small sheep farmer could be self-important ● A dummy teat — well, one of two. 6. A member of Gadus (pollack): angle for the sake of protein ● Will girl play Hamlet? 7. "O mighty-mouth'd . . ." a classic pastiche lacking the pith of Tennysonism ● Institute — British one's no good ● 8 Christ-child *not* esoteric here? ● I process a *soft* signal with resistance, electromotive force, and current. 9. Native of Banjarmasin, Borneo ● In outskirts of Kremenchug, Ukraine, one may discover burial mound 10. The *return* of Rod Laver ● Poorly administered, losing millions, see this island perhaps 11. Airy? Of lungs, peculiarly ● To associate with girls — London ones? 12. American withdrawing monkeys to bet heavily ● A little ping on a set of bells

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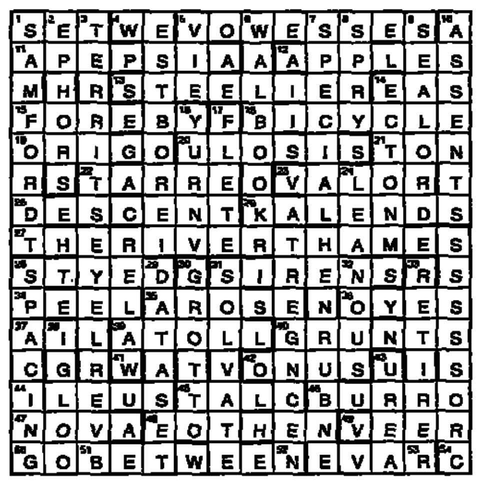

S	E	T	W	E	V	O	W	E	S	S	E	S	A
A	P	E	P	S	I	A	A	A	P	P	L	E	S
M	H	R	S	T	E	E	L	I	E	R	E	A	S
F	O	R	E	B	Y	F	B	I	C	Y	C	L	E
O	R	I	G	O	U	L	O	S	I	S	T	O	N
R	S	T	A	R	R	E	O	V	A	L	O	R	T
D	E	S	C	E	N	T	K	A	L	E	N	D	S
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A	I	L	A	T	O	L	L	G	R	U	N	T	S
C	G	R	W	A	T	V	O	N	U	S	U	I	S
I	L	E	U	S	T	A	L	C	B	U	R	R	O
N	O	V	A	E	O	T	H	E	N	V	E	E	R
G	O	B	E	T	W	E	E	N	E	V	A	R	C

Solution to No 3435:
Contributions by Blank

The thematic vertical lights are all tributaries of the River Thames in London (Stamford and Beverley Brooks, the River Wandle, the Westbourne, the Tyburn, the River Fleet, the Walbrook, the Neckinger, the Ravensbourne, the River Lea, and Beckton and Crossness sewage treatment works). The quotation is "with pomp of waters unwithstood unto the ocean" (S. Daniel).

The winner is J.D. Brown, of Shepton Mallet, Somerset. The runners-up are Malcolm Kennedy of Seaford, Sussex; H. Lawson of Edinburgh, Scotland; Keith Witfield of Moscow, Russian Federation; Brenda. J. Widger of Altrincham, Cheshire; Mrs A.J. Bancroft of Lambley, Carlisle.

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

TODAY I conclude my review of bridge software.

Bridge Master: Aimed at everyone from novice to expert, this is a well produced and technically faultless program from top Canadian player Fred Gitelman. It presents declarer *play problems* and rearranges the opponents' cards so your line of play will always fail, unless you select the best line.
£49.95 (Windows 3.1 or 95, DOS)

Counting at Bridge: From the former Dallas Ace player and fine writer Mike Lawrence, this excellent program for beginner to advanced player presents questions on the theme of counting the opponents' points and cards, helping you to make the necessary deductions for the best line of play.
£34.95 (Windows 3.1 or 95).

Both of the above from Bridge Plus *(0118-935 1052).*

Bridge on the Internet: There are a few companies that provide on-line bridge 24 hours a day.

The two most established are *www.bridgeplayer.com* ($79 a year) and *www.okbridge.com* ($99 a year), the latter boasting more than 10,000 members. Both offer a free *month's trial. To play bridge live* you need a computer, a modem, an Internet provider and a subscription to one of the services. Then you pay only for local phone calls to connect you to the provider.

This hand was played by Andy Bowles in London, partnering Marty Seligman, president of the American Psychological Association, in Philadelphia, via OKbridge:

Dealer West NS game IMPs

♠83
♥K9653
♦A1086
♣63

♠J106
♥Q1042
♦QJ7
♣QJ10

N
W E
S

♠K7542
♥8
♦543
♣A982

♠AQ9
♥AJ7
♦K92
♣K754

Contract: Four Hearts by South
Opening lead: queen of clubs

South played in Four Hearts after a transfer sequence. East won the club lead and switched to spades. South winning the queen. King and another heart exposed the bad break. South took the ace, cashed the king of clubs, ruffed a club and after the ace of spades and a spade ruff reached this position:

♠-
♥9
♦A1086
♣-

♠-
♥Q10
♦QJ7
♣-

N
W E
S

♠K
♥-
♦543
♣9

♠-
♥J
♦K92
♣7

Declarer exited with his last trump, end-playing West to open up the diamonds. When West led the queen, Bowles guessed well to win in hand and finesse the ten on the way back.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 32

GRANGOUSIER
(b) One who will swallow anything. From the French *grand gosier* "big throat". The proper name of a character in Rabelais. George Meredith, *Richmond*, 1871: "Our grangousier public."

GORBELLY
(a) A protuberant belly, a garment with a loose belly. A person with a big pot. There are Nordic cognates. "Falstaff, reproaching the Londoners with their gorbellies."

GLOP
(a) To swallow greedily. An echoic word imitating the sound of the action. *Cf. gulp.* Swedish dialect *glapa* to gulp down.

BALDERDASH
(b) Froth or frothy liquid. A jumbled and distasteful mixture of liquors, eg of milk and beer, beer and wine, brandy and mineral waters. Ben Jonson, *New Inn*, 1629: "Beer or butter-milk, mingled together. It is against my freehold to drink such balderdash."

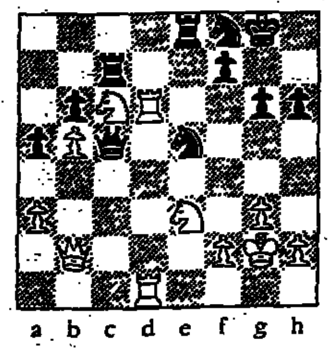
CHESS

by Raymond Keene

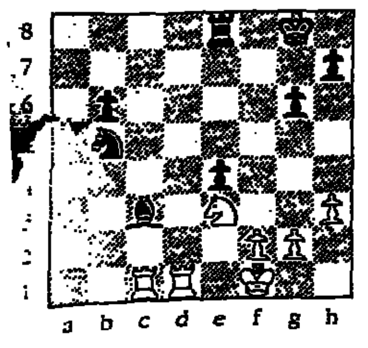
GIVEN that the number of possibilities in chess is ten to the power pf 40, for practical purposes virtually limitless, some remarkable coincidences have arisen. It is not unknown for the same game to have been played twice, and there is even one notorious case where the Dutch grandmaster Donner [illegible]st a duplicate of a previous defeat, though surviving one move fewer the second time.

The power of coincidence came home to me while I was examining Reti's win as White against Capablanca from New York 1924 (see this column, November 1). If Reti had wagered before the start of the New York tournament that he would defeat both José Capablanca and Alexander Alekhine in 31 moves each and playing the same Winning Move, causing resignation, in both cases, he would have had many takers. But that is exactly what transpired. Given infallible foresight, Reti could have made a fortune.

First the Capablanca finale.



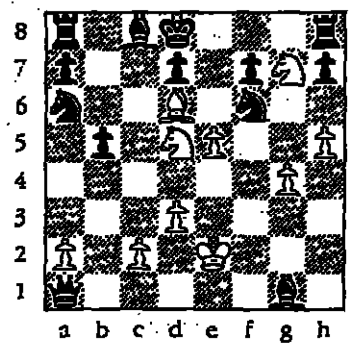
Here White played 31 Rld5 and Black resigned. He faces ruinous loss of material. Then, against Alekhine, Reti (White again) played



31 Rd5 and Alekhine, too, resigned. Already the exchange in arrears, he cannot escape disastrous losses.

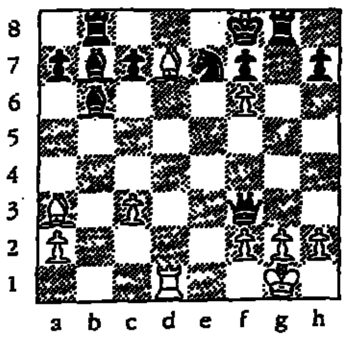
The power of coincidence was also evident in the final strike of two of the most famous games of chess ever played, respectively named the Immortal Game and the Evergreen Game. In both cases, the celebrated German grandmaster Adolf Anderssen delivered the same death blow 21 Be7 on the same move.

In the Immortal Game Anderssen played White at London 1851 against Kieseritsky.



Here Anderssen played Be7 mate.

And for the repeat performance: the Evergreen Game was played later in the 1850s against Dufresne.



Again Be7 mate.

Truth is stranger than fiction.

The most prestigious tournament in the UK, the Hastings Premier, starts next month. Among the competitors will be grandmaster John Nunn, last year's winner, and teenage prodigy Luke McShane. Spectators are welcome. For further information call 01424 442500.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

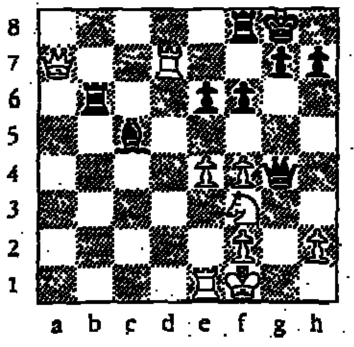
Vhite to play. This position is rom the game Speelman - Short, ndon 1980.

[illegible]ite has a powerful concentra[illegible] of force along the seventh [illegible] but must be careful as his [illegible]ing is exposed. How did he [illegible] find an effective way to [illegible]e attack and defence?

[illegible] your answer on a post[illegible] *The Times*, 1 Pennington [illegible]ondon E1 9XN. The first [illegible]swer drawn on Thurs[illegible] win a year's subscription [illegible] Staunton Society. The [illegible]ill be published next

Last week's solution: 1 ... Qxh4+ (2 Kxh4 Rh8+; 3 Kg5 Rh5 mate)

Last week's winner: R Wesley, Bedford.



COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

CHANNEL 4

All talk: Clive Anderson launches Oi! on the Internet for the BBC

EVER SINCE Clive Anderson's acerbic tongue prompted the touchy Bee Gees to walk out during his show, he has been hailed a hero by many. The interviewer turned interviewee for the launch of **Oi!**, a new BBC Web site.

Anderson was one of the first to allow himself to be probed by an *online public for an hour. Asked if* he realised Barry Gibb was getting increasingly angry, Anderson replied: "I must admit I wasn't picking up the vibes in the Bee Gees interview — perhaps I should have done. They seemed to be laughing, so was I, so was the audience. When Barry got up to go, we all thought at first he was only joking. When he kept going it was obvious, even to me, that the interview wasn't going as well as *I'd thought it had been.*"

Elvis Costello, who was also in *the studio at the time, "tried to* smooth things over". Anderson did not speak to the Bee Gees after the show, instead they swept themselves off to catch their flight back to America, apparently as originally planned. "When it comes down to it, I either misjudged it or they had a sense of humour failure," concluded Anderson.

Others who have already been interviewed on Oi! include the struggling Casio keyboard player John Shuttleworth, aka Graham Fellows, and *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* author Douglas Adams. Due to appear live in cyberspace in the next few weeks are former *Monty Python* star and now accidental tourist, Michael Palin, and Harlequin's French fly-half Thierry Lacroix, who are provisionally booked for December 3 and 10 respectively.

Interviews tend to be around 1pm but check the site for further details. Transcripts of earlier sessions can also be called up. In another Oi! zone you can join chat forums to debate, praise or ridicule Auntie's output. You can also cast votes, without paying premium phone rates for the privilege.

MONDAY is World Aids Day and as well as celebrities popping up around the country to help raise awareness and funds, Direct Connection is doing its bit. The Internet service-provider already helps the ***Terrence Higgins Trust** to publish* its Web site on the Internet (*http://www.tht.org.uk*) but now it is also pledging donations to the charity. For every new customer who mentions the trust when signing up, Direct Connection will donate £10 to the trust *every year* that the account is held. For more information call Direct Connection (0800 072 0000).

THIS is the last call for Cyberspace *Thirty-Eight, which closes on* Wednesday. Top prizes are two pairs of silver vouchers for on-track experience at the Brands Hatch race circuit, courtesy of Codemasters' TOCA Touring Car Championship title.

The silver package offers a visit to the **Nigel Mansell Racing School** at Brands Hatch, with a classroom briefing and then *driving laps in the BMW 318, a* single-seater racing car.

Cyberspace Thirty-Eight is open to anyone with a current driving licence. To enter you must create an outline or short script for an imaginary television advertising campaign for a Skoda sports car. Your treatment should cover no more than one side of A4 paper. Send your entry with your name, age *and telephone number, to:* Cyberspace Thirty-Eight, Computer Games and Pastimes, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. You may also e-mail entries to cyber@dircon.co.uk. The two winners, plus six runners-up, will also win PC copies of Codemaster's TOCA Touring Car Championship.

TWO BRAINS ANSWERS

From page 36

Question 1:
142857 x 3 = 428571

Question 2:
E: The initial letters of One to *Eight*

NEW SOFTWARE

IN AMERICA. Dilbert the cartoon-strip character is a god, and it is easy to see why. There is something cool about this doughnut-munching, work-avoiding clerk which is instantly appealing. **Dilbert's Desktop Games**, moreover, are a hoot.

This stuff and nonsense is a glorified screensaver which is guaranteed to take the drudgery out of office life in the days leading up to Christmas — if not the new year, too. From Dreamworks Interactive, the Windows programme loads completely on to the hard *disk and springs into action* whenever the computer is left idle for too long.

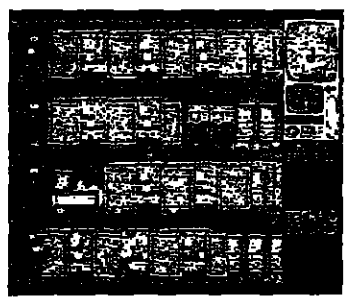
Designed to "motivate your funnybone", the programme offers ten mindless games to tackle as well as activities to crank, such as a *Jargonator*, which extends simple memos into intangible bureau*cratic triumphs.*

Most games have the same theme: avoiding work. *Project Pass-Off* requires you to deflect dodgy projects away from Dilbert while pushing the decent ones towards him. In *Techno-Raiders* *you lead Dilbert ever upward* through the office floors, grabbing doughnuts and zapping co-workers and clueless bosses.

These are simple but addictive trinkets. There is also a boss key to return your screen to work mode at a single stroke should an employer approach.

Verdict: 9 out of 10. Madcap fun on the desktop with Dilbert and chums. £19.99.

WHICH southwestern state has led the United States in copper production since the early 1900s? Arizona.



Dilbert scores nine out of ten

Would you believe that most of *Hawaii's famous beaches are man-*made? No.

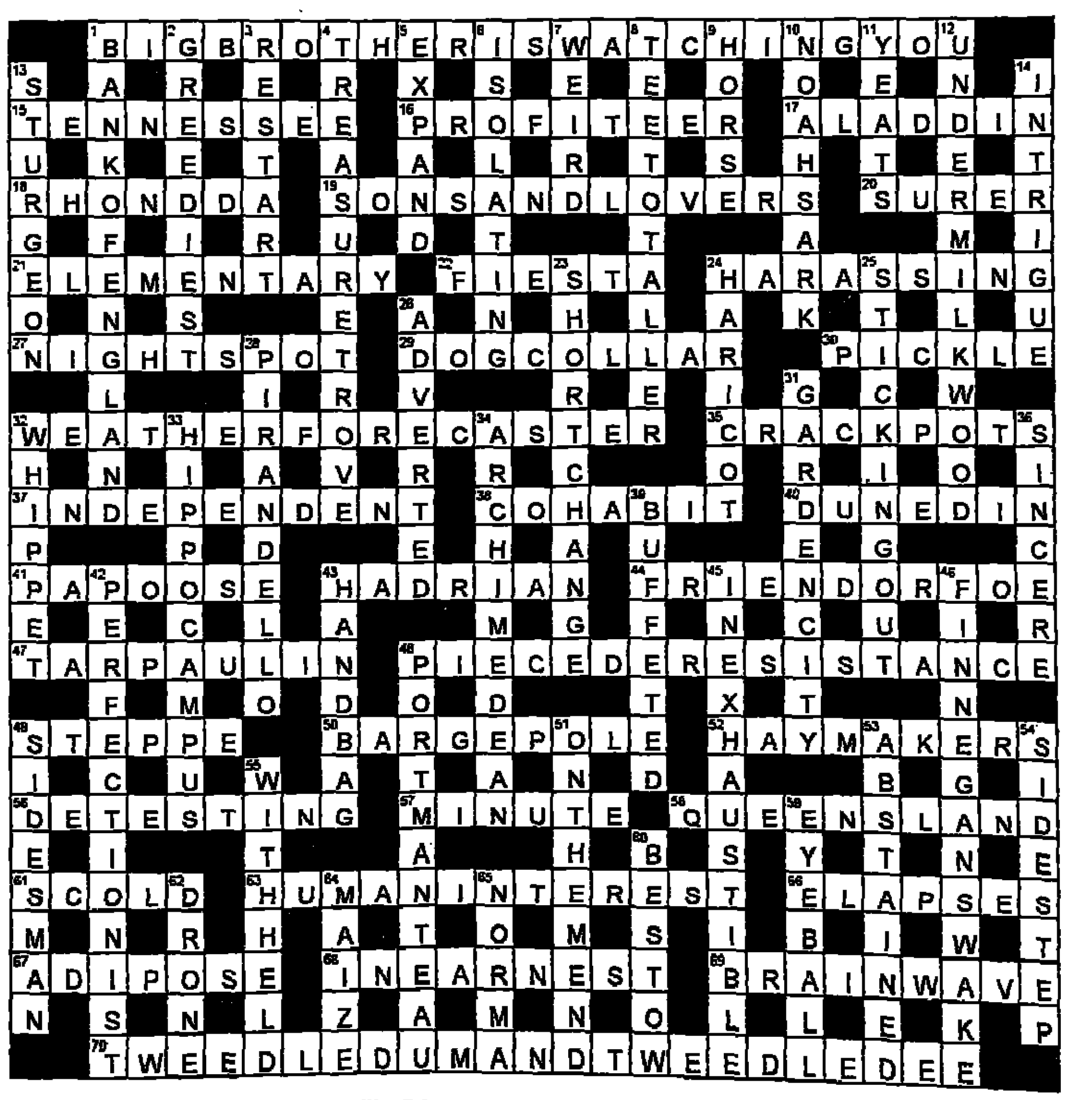
The Grand Canyon, the Painted Desert and Canyonlands National Park are all part of a plateau region that has the same name as which state? Colorado.

National Geographic's **GeoBee Challenge** is an American import intended for players aged ten and above. Of the 2,000 questions posed, unfortunately many are too taxing for most ten or 11-year-olds. There has been no attempt to localise the product for a British audience, and the question *database is noticeably biased to*wards North America.

Worse still is the style of the quiz, a blatant rip-off of the winning *I Don't Know Jack* formula. Hosted by two characters, an irritating bee who pops into the picture from time to time, and an unseen question-master, players buzz in to take cracks at the questions. *GeoBee Challenge*, on dual format CD-*Rom for PC and Mac, is not only* hugely unoriginal but it is poorly executed and extremely dreary to play.

Verdict: 3 out of 10. Second-rate copycat quiz. £19.99.

SOLUTION TO JUMBO CROSSWORD 136



The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Tom Whitelaw, of Bearsden in Scotland

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

Q **I have just got married and I am now in the process of advising various institutions of my change of name. However, I wish to keep my maiden name but add my husband's name after it. Can you please advise whether there should be a hyphen in between?** — H.J. Beckingham-(?) Cox

A Anybody in Britain can choose to double-barrel their name. However, such a casual arrangement, although adequate in the eyes of the law, is often inadequate for modern bureaucracy and for many people lacks the psychological stamp of institutional approval. A more formal status can be achieved by combining husband's and wife's surname either by Deed Poll through a solicitor, or in the case of changing a name for reasons such as property interests or reasons of genealogy, by applying for a Royal Licence via the College of Arms to HM the Queen. Hyphens (although increasingly unfashionable) are helpful, as they make it clear that a multiple name is indeed a surname, not a succession of first names.

Q **Can it ever be right to wear brown shoes with a grey suit?** — D S Rutter Poole, Dorset

A Yes it can, but only when the cloth has a distinctly flannelly or tweedy appearance.

Q **Could you please advise me on how to eat a small roasted bird, eg partridge, snipe or woodcock, at a formal dinner party. Is it permissible to chew the bones in your fingers? If not, could you advise me of the polite, but at the same time the best way, to get the maximum meat out of your bird.** — Baily, Bognor

A The simple guide rests on the presence of finger bowls. If these are on the host's table, then bone-chewing is acceptable. If not, the bird is best attacked only with a knife or fork. As far as getting the maximum meat from it, the secret lies in first cutting with the knife directed towards the bone as when carving and secondly, that the host has ensured that the bird has been properly hung and expertly cooked.

Q **When hosting a guest sleeping in the spare bedroom, is it considered bad manners to launder the bedclothes on the day of the guest's departure before they have left the house?** — Jane M Hibberd, Harston, Cambridge

A It rather defeats the object of hospitality to spend a weekend making people feel welcome, only to make it appear as if they are being bundled out at the end. Throughout a guest's stay their room is their territory, and therefore laundering the bedclothes before they have left does suggest a little undue haste.

Q **Correspondence and invitations, as I understood, should be sent on cards with rounded corners, and cards with squared corners are reserved for tickets. I notice increasingly that correspondence and invitations are sent on squared-cornered cards. Am I being old-fashioned in thinking etiquette has changed?** — Tudor Jones, Mold, Flints

A Nowadays square corners *are* correct form and are considered more elegant than round ones. This applies not just for tickets, but for invitation cards, correspondence cards, change of address notifications, birth announcements and indeed all stationery. Place cards that fit into little stands are the only exception: these can still have rounded edges.

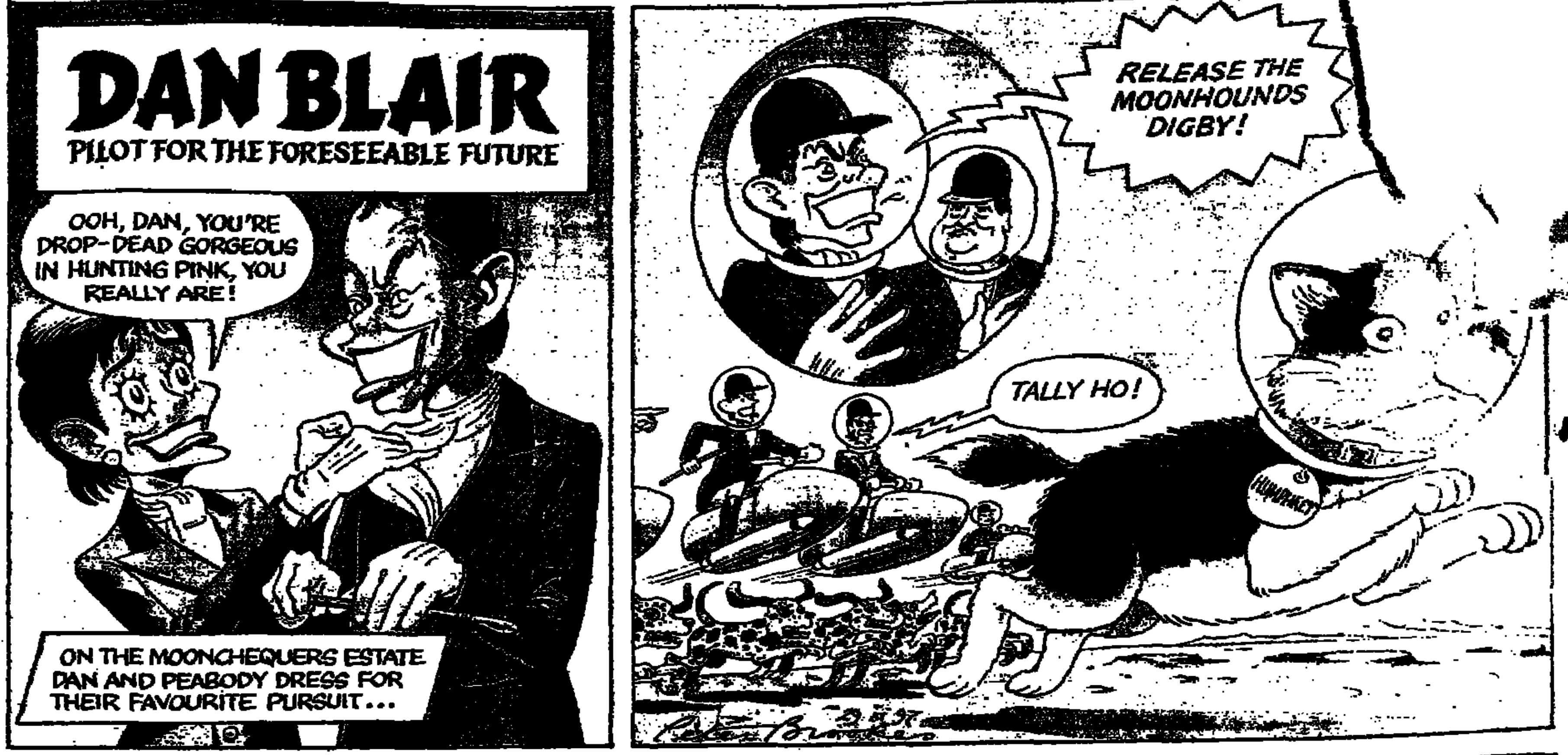
Q **If one passes a stranger in the street and likes the scent he or she is wearing, how can a polite enquiry be made as to the brand and supplier?** — *J P Smith*, Stonehouse, Plymouth.

A At one time making personal comments was considered crass and vulgar, but nowadays such attention is considered more socially acceptable. However, a light touch is required, and any observation or enquiry should always take the form of a delighted and spontaneous compliment. An example could be: "I hope you don't mind me saying, but I just love the scent you are wearing." Whether the response is a beatific smile or a punch in the face is an occupational hazard you can ascertain only in individual situations.

Q **I shall be grateful if you can comment on three features of current English language usage that mildly irritate and sometimes profoundly exasperate me. They are: 1) The pronunciation of "H" as "Haitch"; 2) The pronunciation of "says" (sez) as "sayze"; 3) The substitution of "do you have?" for "have you got?" My disgust concerning 3) reached a pinnacle a few days ago when a film on television contained the lines: "We've got a servant problem in this house — no good saying we don't." Can you explain these deviations?** — Patrick Palmer, Hereford.

A The guilty party is Estuary English, a patois once restricted to regions bordering the Thames estuary, but which is now increasingly widespread. Alarmists fear that within a few decades it will have completely eclipsed Received Pronunciation as the standard way to speak. Let's hope they are wrong.

John Morgan is Associate Editor of GQ


DAN BLAIR
PILOT FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE
OOH, DAN, YOU'RE DROP-DEAD GORGEOUS IN HUNTING PINK, YOU REALLY ARE!
ON THE MOONCHEQUERS ESTATE DAN AND PEABODY DRESS FOR THEIR FAVOURITE PURSUIT...
RELEASE THE MOONHOUNDS DIGBY!
TALLY HO!
HUMPHREY

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

GRANGOUSIER
- a. A type of foie gras goose
- b. A swallower
- c. An overcloak

GORBELLY
- a. A big paunch
- b. An exclamation
- c. A turret with machicolation

GLOP
- a. To swallow greedily
- b. An adopted child
- c. A swallow's nest

BALDERDASH
- a. A race up a mountain
- b. A mixed drink
- c. A Nordic diacritic

Answers on page 35

TWO BRAINS

IN 1923 the psychometrician C.M. Cox estimated the greatest historical IQs in his Genetic Studies of Genius. His conclusions were as follows: 1. Goethe (210); 2. Leibnitz (205); 3-4. Newton and Pitt the Younger (both 190); 5. Galileo (185). Notable omissions from his list were Da Vinci, Shakespeare and Einstein, who have variously been estimated as, respectively, 220, 210 and 205.

Question 1:
What numbers can replace these letters?
ABCDEF x 3 = BCDEFA

Question 2:
Which letter is next in this series?
OTTFFSS

Answers on page 35.

RAYMOND KEENE

CROSS WORDS

by Brian Greer

Another of the antecedents of cryptic clues is the charade. This one is from *Emma*:

My first doth affliction denote
Which my second was born to endure
My third is a sure antidote
That affliction to soften and cure

("My third" here refers to the whole word).

There are many aspects to writing a good charade clue. The components should dovetail syntactically and semantically and care is needed with the nuts and bolts. The minimal structure is juxtaposition, with the definition of the whole word at the beginning or the end, as in: **American planner spoils country house (8).** Extra words may be inserted (but only if they can be functionally justified), as in **Book made from stiff paper (4,5).** Note that if "from" is used as a *link*, the structure should be *whole* from *parts*; conversely, if the link is "for", the structure should be *parts* for *whole*, while other words, such as "in", work in either direction (these remarks apply in general, not just to charade clues). Various phrases indicate the order of components. In particular, our convention is to use "on" to mean *after* in across clues and *above* in down clues.

One variation is when the parts can be related, as in **Blues used in service (5,4).** Another is when the split word can be construed as a phrase: **Frightening place to be seated in plane? (9).** Other ingredients of crypticity, such as homophony, can be stirred in: **Roughly treat German author and composer, say (9).** Some words can be split into more than two parts, as in: **Examine row of birds from Northern Europe (12)** and **Affected by blues record playing thus in the small hours (12).**

Answers to anagram clues from two weeks ago: FRANCOIS RABELAIS, DANTE GABRIEL ROSSETTI, WATER-SKI, ISLE OF MAN, WHEAT, TRANSIENT, METROPOLIS, REAPPEAR. The anagram of TALCUM POWDER *should* have been WORLD CUP TEAM — my apologies.

PICTURE LINE

Certainly I can give you a lift home

READERS are invited to suggest what Cherie Blair and Humphrey, pictured right, might be saying.

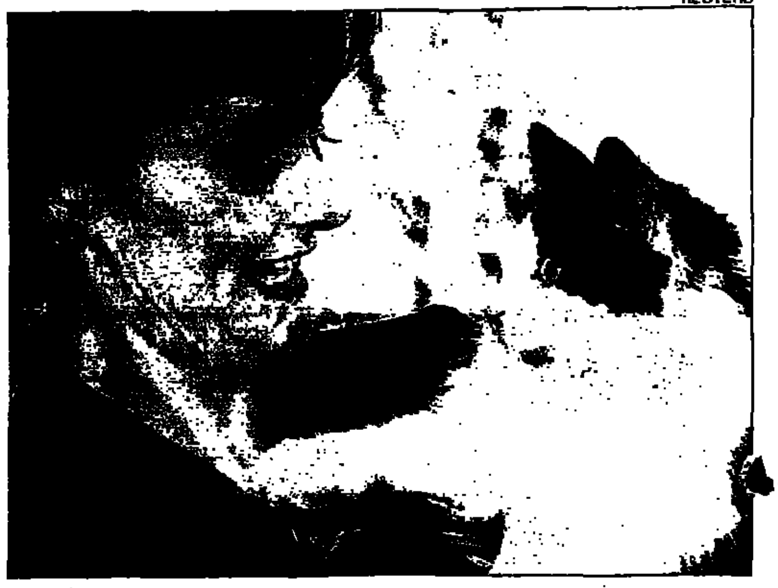
This picture, recently printed in The Times, will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

Send "speech bubble" suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to PictureLine, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, E1 9XN.

The Editor's *decision is final*. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, December 4.

Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by Richard E. Fay, of Crowborough, Sussex.

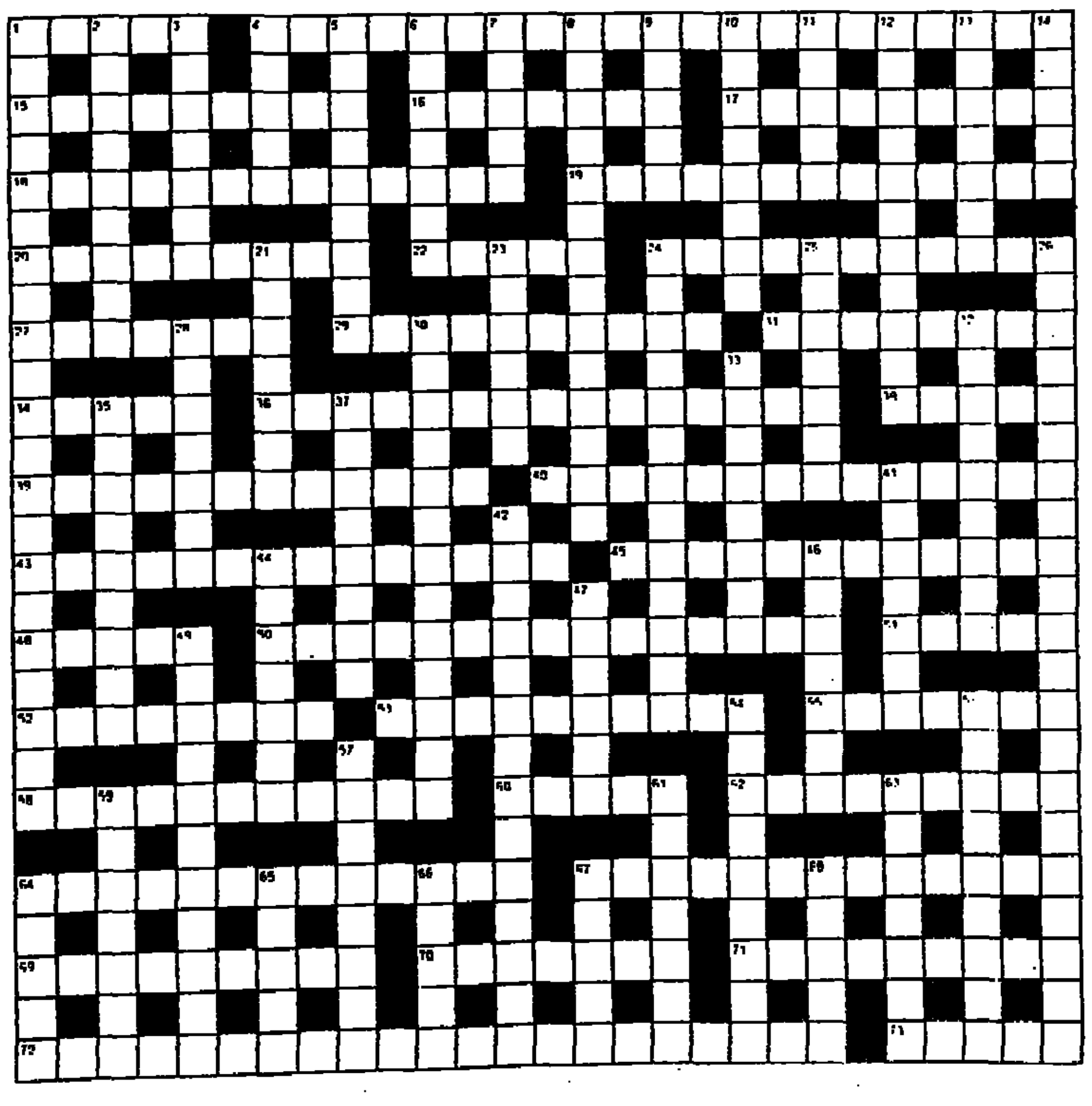
REUTERS



JUMBO CROSSWORD 138

ALFRED DUNHILL
LONDON

The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, the world's first interchangeable, capless rollerball/ballpoint pen. Streamlined and made from black resin with a gold-plated clip, it has perfect writing balance. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 138, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by Monday, December 8. The name of the winner will be published in Weekend on Saturday, December 13.



NAME ....

ADDRESS ....

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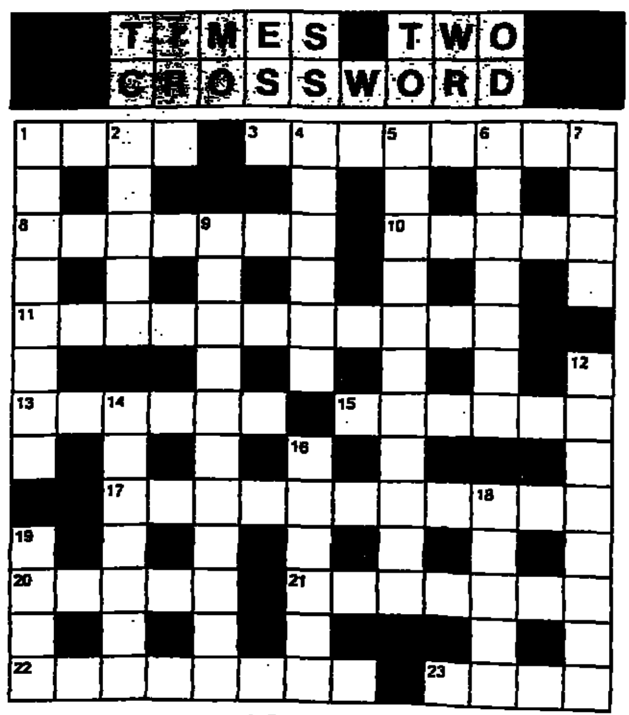
.... POSTCODE ....

ACROSS
- 1 Briefly, where addition's implied, "*minus*" is wrong! (2,3)
- 4 Saw the disastrous outcome of Tom's prying (9,6,3,3)
- 15 Ordering a piece of jewellery, having phoned in (9)
- 16 Imagine tribesman having remedy to get *rid of* cold (7)
- 17 From this point of view, one may look down on the French and *Italians* (4,5)
- 18 Retracting one's opinions, suggesting recycling in two stages (4-9)
- 19 Is fan's letter unusual, keeping right emotions in check? (4-9)
- 20 Edward has rings run round him in disorderly retreat — totally destroyed (6,3)
- 22 African mum's excellent (5)
- 24 One working under cover, surprisingly centre-stage (6,5)
- 27 King getting prickly about Society being tasteless (7)
- 29 Like a powerful clique round a girl, exceptionally fashionable (10)
- 31 Make the most of positive change — number increasing 200-fold (8)
- 34 Member of family participating in Brownie ceremony (5)
- 36 Extinct *bird's* fare — *farm animal*, and wild one (9-6)
- 38 Series of notes made from back *issue of union periodical* (5)
- 39 Data I refused to process, referring *to* apples of dubious origin (4,3,5)
- 40 Steps taken with section of wreckage, having instruction to find this? (4-8)
- 43 With their high-level connections, they may be snowed under (8,6)
- 45 Contribution to a book which has a redeeming feature (7-5)
- 48 Found in desert — a new variety of palm (5)
- 50 Candidate placed second in Latin (7,8)
- 51 Energy running short troubled enviromentalist (5)
- 52 One boy turned head, prying into another's affairs (8)
- 53 Striker on the box perhaps sheds light on this criminal's activity (4-6)
- 55 Side's not on time? Then test's not starting! (7)
- 58 Long sentence beginning a man's right-wing biography (4,7)
- 60 Almost be converted, going back to "The Art of Jazz" (5)
- 62 Northern town may be heated with gas (9)
- 64 Two pairs of sides coming across each other, *but determined not to* meet (13)
- 67 Sporting occasion that could be elegant and hearty (6,7)
- 69 Checks supply of French art that can be trusted first (9)
- 70 Animal seen next to mountain ash *originally, or another tree* (7)
- 71 Wand, perhaps, producing transient light (5,4)
- 72 Composer and romantic poet with names listed slightly out of order (6,9-6)
- 73 One supervising tour goes astray after road junction (5)

DOWN
- 1 This engineer left things shipshape and Bristol fashion, and kept on the rails (8,7,6)
- 2 Removed fat, including wrinkle (6,3)
- 3 Fellow catches chill in Eucharistic vestment (7)
- 4 Youngster *rebuked* when boxing in learner driver (5)
- 5 One good in a part sent up outrageous opera (9)
- 6 Greeting called out during Proms — odd kind of cult (7)
- 7 Sergeant perhaps intercepts *soldier turning up without proper* identification (5)
- 8 Writer's final denial of deceit, without claiming to be faithful (5,9)
- 9 Perfect cards come from me (5)
- 10 Lines expressing kind of humour found in Irish community (8)
- 11 Study Isles — Man perhaps? (5)
- 12 Coping with seasonal variations, having prepared for a freeze (11)
- 13 Church has girl offering Communion vessel (7)
- 14 Diplomacy involves English player's order to keep quiet (5)
- 21 Greek's plain to be seen in US *state capital* (7)
- 23 Uneasy, holding a gee-gee that's poorly groomed (6)
- 24 Master's put out, having to follow them (7,6)
- 25 Stretch of river occupied by vessels (7)
- 26 The Washington Post may keep up *this* standard (3,4-8,6)
- 28 Secret's out — one was carrying an old torch! (7)
- 30 Invite new talent — it's bound to turn up (13)
- 32 Urgent item breaking? Press, TV etc. called in (9)
- 33 Try university parties — they once shielded gatecrashers (8)
- 35 Assesses a vault seen, ignoring last tumble (9)
- 37 Knight with firm set up on Greek island winds up elsewhere (8)
- 41 At first viewing, likely venue is discussed (2,5)
- 42 *Offered tender inducement, not* taking account of the price one may have to pay (14)
- 44 One lawgiver has to accommodate politician's initial demands (7)
- 46 No terribly short letter? Yes it is! (7)
- 47 Navigator's instrument, old, cannot keep time (6)
- 49 Acting casually — *no new risk* seen round US city (11)
- 54 Rex felt urge to reform — presumably being this? (9)
- 56 Be very sorry to lose power, then rave, coming back in (2-7)
- 57 Huge company deficit — everything in short supply (8)
- 59 Weapon currently being restricted caused anger in rural establishment (7)
- 61 Burmese city finally abandoned religious symbol (7)
- 63 Hint at struggles, having to lash out right and left (7)
- 64 Set up a record, with urgent appeal for cash abroad (5)
- 65 Set of principles held by Elizabeth I conscientiously (5)
- 66 Come again about snappy dog (5)
- 67 Keep holding line — take 50% of the division (5)
- 68 Governor offering guidance for one wishing to go straight (5)

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1264

ACROSS
- 1 Corporate group (4)
- 3 James –, *Nocturne* painter (8)
- 8 Steward; dangerous ball (7)
- 10 Stolen property handler (5)
- 11 Eventually (2,3,6)
- 13 US state nearest Russia (6)
- 15 Liquid container; nerve (*slang*) (6)
- 17 Student of word origins (11)
- 20 Unruly gang behaviour (*slang*) (5)
- 21 Produce new version of (text) (7)
- 22 Armorial science (8)
- 23 Powdered grain; food served (4)

DOWN
- 1 From the Good Book (8)
- 2 Celtic priest (5)
- 4 Clod breaker; Churchill its pupil (6)
- 5 No trouble, yet (3,3,2,4)
- 6 Merciful (7)
- 7 Smell strongly (4)
- 9 Very close (5,2,4)
- 12 *Not* touching alcohol (8)
- 14 One getting even (7)
- 16 Less good, less well off (6)
- 18 Picture; idol (5)
- 19 Georgian city, has Marquess (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1263

ACROSS: 1 Strata 5 Mood 9 Refugee 10 Attain 11 Hercules 12 O'Casey 15 Warder 18 Claudius 20 Stigma 22 Dilemma 23 Guts 24 Ticket

DOWN: 2 Target 3 Affected 4 Angel 6 Oust 7 Devise 8 Reason 13 Academic 14 Arcade 16 Acting 17 Curate 19 Allot 21 Go/at

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